

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 30th July, at 2, Wilkie Road, Singapore, the wife of B. L. Frost, Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., of twins (boy and girl).

On the 30th July, at No. 14, The Bund, Shanghai, the wife of J. Buse, of a daughter.

On the 2nd August, at Canton, the wife of Mr. A. von Postau, of a daughter, GRETA. No cards.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st July, at the Church of the Assumption, Penang, W. J. FOLEY, District Police Inspector, Lower Perak, to PHILOMENA, fourth daughter of H. H. PETERSON, chief clerk, Municipal Office.

On the 26th July, at the British Consulate, Shanghai, THEODORE OGIER, of Guernsey, to BLANCHE MAUD OLIVER, of Guernsey.

DEATHS.

On the 15th July, MARGARET HELENA, only daughter of ERNEST and HELENA BURT, English Baptist Mission, Tsouping, Shantung, aged 84 months.

On the 22nd July, at Saint Bernard's Hospital, Nagasaki, MARTIN S. BEEL, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of San Francisco, California.

On the 22nd July, at Sourabaya, Java, CHARLES HICKS, advance representative of Hariston's Circus.

On the 25th July, at Newchwang, THOMAS NATHANIEL CHARLES, second son of James Clark, E.M. Customs, aged 6 years 1 month and 29 days.

On the 26th July, on board the pilot-boat *Polar Star*, at Shanghai, HINRICK FREUDENTHAL (Brun), Licensed Pilot, aged 63 years.

On the 29th July, in London, EDWARD CAREY SMITH, formerly a partner in the firm of Turner & Co., Hongkong and China.

On the morning of 8th August, at Bombay, of diabetes, BEJONJI FRAMJI TALATI, eldest brother of PESTONJI FRAMJI TALATI, of Hongkong.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 8th July arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 5th August (28 days); the German mail of the 8th July arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *König Albert*, on the 5th August (28 days); and the French mail of the 11th July arrived, per M. M. steamer *Tonkin*, on the 10th August (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Prince Komatsu was to go to Moscow on Monday, the 4th inst., and will return home to Japan by the Siberian Railway.

The Russian Government has granted £16,500,000 sterling for the construction of the railroad from Stretensk to Blagovestchensk.

It is stated at Washington that the United States will not consent to the payment of the Chinese indemnity in gold, and that it is proposed to refer the matter to the Hague tribunal.

The *St. Petersburg Gazette* states that General Suicillon, the commander of the French troops in Chihli province, accompanied by the French Minister at Peking, will shortly visit St. Petersburg.

The Manila authorities are going to spend half a million dollars (gold) on the reconstruction of the city. Forty thousand natives are to be moved into a big camp beyond San Lazaro, says the *American*, while Manila is being put into a sanitary condition.

The British Foreign Office submitted to delegates from the Manchester and Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, the China Association, and the China League, the draft of the new Commercial Treaty with China, as wired home, and the Treaty was approved by these bodies.

At the end of July serious troubles caused by dacoits were reported from Northern Siam, and the Europeans at Chiengmai were preparing for emergencies. The lawbreakers are variously stated to be Shans, Karens from the British side of the Salween, or outlaws from the French side of the Mekong.

Baron Komura, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, issued instructions to Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Minister recently at Peking, in regard to the reported conclusion of a secret convention between Russia and China regarding Tibet. It is stated that Mr. Uchida has been instructed only to report whether any new diplomatic situation is likely to result from the signing of the new Convention.

A conference, at which the proposed revision of the Chinese Customs duties was discussed, was held at the Foreign Office last week. Those attending included the Marquess of Lansdowne, Mr. Gerald Balfour, the leading officials of the Foreign Office and Board of Trade, and business representatives. The Marquess of Lansdowne submitted communications from the British representatives at Shanghai.

The *Cologne Gazette* announced on the 25th ult. that an Anglo-Japanese compact had been concluded concerning the protection of Corea. The report was officially contradicted next day. A London telegram of the 28th to Kobé says:—The statements emanating from St. Petersburg alleging that important Anglo-Japanese action is pending in Corea are believed to be ascribable to a desire to cover French designs on the Siam border.

On Saturday, 9th August, the Coronation was celebrated in Hongkong. A meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the forenoon and a telegram of congratulation voted to the King. Coronation services were held in St. John's Cathedral, the R. C. Cathedral, etc. In the evening the City and Harbour were beautifully illuminated, but rain came on shortly after nine o'clock, destroying the illuminations, spoiling the fish procession, and causing the band performance, fire-works, etc., to be abandoned.

Our Singapore correspondent telegraphed on the 5th August:—"H.M.S. *Terrible* has beaten her coaling record established at Hongkong at the end of April last. She has here put on board 1,548 tons in 5 hours and 27 minutes." The *Terrible* here, in April, achieved the feat of taking on board 2,500 tons in 9 hours 10 minutes, which at the time was looked on as (and indeed was) a splendid record. But the *Terrible* has evidently not rested content with this. In the coaling test at Hongkong last April, up to 2,450 the average quantity shipped per hour was 31.0 tons, while the most amount for a single hour was 425 tons.

The *Times* correspondent at Shanghai states that the Nanking Viceroy has addressed a strongly worded request to the consuls of the four Powers maintaining garrisons at Shanghai for the early withdrawal of their troops. The Chinese state that the British, French, and Japanese consuls concurred, subject to the matter being referred to their respective ministers. In the House of Commons last week Viscount Cranborne said that Great Britain had made a proposal to the Powers for the evacuation of Shanghai, but it was impossible for us to act alone, and we must in all respects have favoured nation treatment. Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, in a letter to the *Times*, thoroughly agrees with his esteemed friend Lin Kuog-yi, Viceroy of Nanking, that the time has come for the withdrawal of all troops from Shanghai, whose occupation was only intended to be temporary.

There has been a disagreement between the British and Chinese treaty commissioners at Shanghai. The Chinese object to the British regulation of inland navigation, whilst the British insist on the acceptance of Sir James Mackay's scheme in its entirety. The *Times*, commenting on the situation, says that the hitch at Shanghai should not cause excessive surprise, as we know the methods of Peking, but that China can less afford to wait for a higher import tariff than we for more prospective advantages. Since then the *Times* Shanghai correspondent telegraphs that the revision of the Chinese Customs tariff has been completed by China and eight other Powers. Later still it appears that General Sharretis, United States Special Tariff Commissioner in China, has announced at Shanghai that he is opposed to the abolition of *lekin* and the substitution of a surtax, which he declares will prove disastrous to all nations, and especially to America. A perfect deadlock appears to have been reached.

THE OUTLOOK IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 4th August.)

That things should work themselves into a tangle during a China summer is a natural enough phenomenon; and this year the process has doubtless been assisted by the Coronation, the illness of the King, and the changes in the Cabinet. Meanwhile in China itself most of the things which we were led to expect would under the new conventions be immediately settled, are, as is customary at this time of year, still dragging their slow lengths along, and we are left largely dependent on recent utterances in Parliament for our knowledge of what is actually being done. One or two statements made by Lord LANSDOWNE as to the possible early evacuation of Newchwang by the Russians, and a statement in the Commons that the Government proposes to take some steps with regard to French encroachments in Shanghai, may be taken for what they are worth, but would appear to indicate that there is some possibility at last of the Government waking up to the fact that there is very serious business remaining to be done, and that the position in China is by no means as satisfactory as we and British residents generally would like to see it. As concerns the settlement of the long outstanding dispute with regard to the handing back of the railways in Chihli, affairs seem at last to be approaching some sort of a rough settlement, but here there is, of course, the danger that in its anxiety to bring events to a conclusion the Government may be disposed to make further concessions to Russia, ignoring the unfortunate fact that every concession already given has been merely made the occasion for still further demands. In this respect Russia has inadvertently done us a good turn by showing us the folly of yielding further; and Lord LANSDOWNE ought to have by this time had sufficient experience of the methods of St. Petersburg to expect that anything is to be gained by a policy of compromise. Still it is so far as it goes satisfactory to know that the evacuation of Newchwang may be expected to proceed *pari passu* with the restoration of Tientsin city, and as that is arranged for the 15th August we may hope to see a determination of the other before the end of the month.

But although much appears to have been done, there still remain huge arrears of work little less pressing. The most of these are concerned with the rearrangement of the Tariff, but there are many other subjects blocking our present intercourse with China. One of the most serious of these is the condition of the currency; the fall of some fifteen per cent. that followed on the signature of the Protocol fixing the indemnity came as an apt representation of the dangerous precipice on the edge of which rested Chinese finance. There are, too, many plain indications that this last drop has so seriously interfered with the purchasing power of the East generally that we find the export trade at home badly crippled. The inchoate nature of the Chinese currency has long been a source of danger in the Chinese trade; and this last fall, coinciding as it did with the necessity of imposing additional duties, has shown the necessity for taking some steps towards a reform. As matters stand, while China is held bound to pay her indemnities in gold assessed at the level of 1901, she is only allowed to collect duties at the rate of the day. This, looked at from any standpoint, mercantile or logical, does not recommend itself as a triumph of political finance; and practically has a tendency to depress

still further the present disproportion between silver and gold. As if this were not serious enough, the United States Senate, by its impracticable attempts to introduce into the Philippines the free coinage of silver, has still further complicated an already sufficiently tangled affair. However irregular and erratic has been the currency of the Philippines, it was theoretically at least founded on a gold basis, so that the darling fad of the Senate has no foundation in the past, and is in fact a reversal of all that has been sanctioned by past tradition.

Of scarcely less importance to China is Sir JAMES MACKAY's endeavour to assimilate the duties on native and foreign trade. This, of course, would practically require the abolition of the existing happy-go-lucky methods of taxation, and the substitution for the present farming system of a regular collectorate. It is the best proof of the wisdom of the step taken of consulting directly with the provinces that such widespread measures of reform have even obtained a hearing; and if the agitation against Sir JAMES MACKAY's first crude scheme have had no other effect than that of bringing him into contact with the real taxpayers, this may be looked upon as a complete justification. Of less immediate importance, though necessary in case the others should be carried into practice, are measures for improving, or rather creating, a mercantile law for China; and most pressing in this respect are the laws of partnership, of trade combinations and limited liability associations. Of the latter China possesses the rudiments, but like her other institutions of international trade the law of patents and trade marks is constantly becoming of greater importance, and here, though the principle is understood, there is an utter absence of any juridical groundwork.

Of hardly less interest again in the face of the growing commerce of China with foreign countries is the conservation of the harbours and approaches; when therefore Lord LANSDOWNE informs us that the matter of the approaches to Shanghai and Canton is under serious contemplation, we are forced to contrast this statement with the apparent absence of any activity in China. The Protocol of 1901 defined the steps to be taken, and the formation of the local board at Shanghai to carry out these stipulations. The object of the Board was to transfer to local authority a measure which in the hands of the central authority had proved hopeless. The circumstances here were not peculiar to China, although increased there by that excessive centralisation which has been the bane of the Empire. Wherever attempts have been made at the control of harbours and docks by a centralised administration, failure has been the invariable result; and this rule is by no means peculiar to China, but is well-nigh universal. The Chinese Government in its inordinate desire for centralisation has since the signature of the Protocol left no stone unturned to hamper and destroy the local element in the constitution of the Board, and it is rumoured in the failure of its attempts at dividing the principal Powers, has been intriguing with one of two of the others whose interests are practically infinitesimal. Mr. HIPPESEY in the *Universal Gazette* has been credited with the production of a memorial on the subject, which really proves its own refutation. Mr. HIPPESEY is well known as an able administrator, and has from time to time rendered valuable assistance and afforded timely advice to both China and the Powers. The chief peculiarity of

the latest effusion attributed to him is the absence of those qualities of sound commonsense which have hitherto distinguished him. If the Chinese Government have had sufficient influence over Mr. HIPPESEY's actions to compel him to accept the authorship of this reactionary document, what are we to expect for the success of a scheme, which he proposes to place under the control of the Shanghai Harbour Master, himself an officer of the Taotai, and liable to dismissal at any moment? Altogether, though affairs may momentarily look hopeful, reaction is in the air, and it is always necessary in China to draw a broad line of distinction between things promised and things performed. No Government on the face of the earth is more willing to make promises, as probably Sir JAMES MACKAY is beginning to discover, but no Government is so shifty and so helpless when the time for performance arrives.

FRANCE AND MACAO.

(Daily Press, 6th August.)

Owing to the fact that the accuracy of certain statements which have appeared in these columns and elsewhere, with reference to French activity in the immediate neighbourhood of Macao, have been officially questioned at home, we have taken the opportunity to investigate matters more closely in Macao itself, and the result has been to confirm amply what has previously been said. The report about the acquisition of Ca Tai by the Missions Etrangères and the intention of the French Government of taking over the land as the site of a naval and military sanatorium appeared originally in these columns last May and we published fuller details on the 18th June. On the 30th of the same month, in reply to a question by Mr. GALLOWAY WEIR, Lord CRANBORNE admitted that a piece of ground near Macao had been purchased by French missionaries for the erection of a hospital; from his answer it was evident that no importance was attached officially to the affair. Nevertheless the well-informed Macao correspondent of our junior evening contemporary on the 28th ult. was able to add still further confirmation to our statement and hinted that besides the hospital scheme the French had in contemplation the building of a railway. More recently yet he telegraphed that the sub-prefect of Chinsan and a naturalised Portuguese subject had been arrested by order of the Canton Viceroy for an alleged trespass by the second of the two prisoners on French mission land. Our information goes to show that the arrest was made directly on account of the sale of Ca Tai, the land sold containing some two hundred graves. The *Telegraph* correspondent, however, places the place where the alleged trespass occurred nearly to the Porta da Cerco. This part of the matter is obscure, and requires clearing up.

In the meantime the Yeh-ti affair had occurred, the first information on the subject being published, we believe, in the *London Daily Chronicle* early last month. Lord CRANBORNE, when asked whether it was a fact that the French flag had been hoisted at Yeh-ti, between Macao and Canton, contented himself with saying that he was informed that the report had no foundation. We can only say, upon information which we have every reason to believe is more intimate than any possessed by Lord CRANBORNE, that the French flag was certainly hoisted at Yeh-ti. The circumstances were these. A party of French

officers landed at Yeh-ti, hoisted the national flag, made a survey of the ground, and then departed, taking with them the flag. Consternation was the result among the villagers and all sorts of rumours were prevalent. Lord CRANBORNE as in the case of Ca Tai, carefully restricted himself to the task of revealing the Government's lack of information. He did not state that the abnormal activity of French agents in the vicinity of Macao and Canton was receiving the attention of the home authorities. This activity, nevertheless, is a very patent fact, and a few enquiries in the right quarters will readily elicit further proofs. It is easy to see that the individual Chinese are willing enough to sell land to the French in return for the magnificent terms offered, provided that they can escape any penalties from their own officials. France is making full use, as she has so frequently done in China, of the assistance of the Romanist missionaries of her own nationality, the interpolated clause in the Treaty of Peking in 1860, which entitled missionaries to acquire land in the interior, rendering their assistance invaluable. It was, as we have shown, the French fathers of the Missions Etrangères who bought the land at Ca Tai, though the object of the purchase is to erect on the hillside a naval and military sanatorium. It may well be asked, why is this sanatorium to be built in the neighbourhood of Macao, when there are excellent situations for such a building in the French colony of Indo-China? And is there not Kwanchauwan?

The fact appears to be that there is a good deal more in the French scheme than the establishment of a hospital at Ca Tai. We have it on the best authority, though the source naturally cannot be revealed at the present moment, that the main object of the French in their busy attention to this part of China is to carry out their railway projects in Kwangtung province. In fact, nothing less is desired than the privilege of constructing a railway line through the exceedingly rich districts which lie between Macao and Canton. Such a statement will no doubt be dismissed by those at home who are supposed to watch over British interests in China with the remark that no information has reached the Foreign Office. This is quite probable. But the lack of knowledge on the part of Lord CRANBORNE will not hinder the French scheme from being pressed forward with the utmost energy. We cannot imagine, on international grounds, that it will be permitted to achieve success. There is another government which surely has the prior claim to build any railway from Macao, if China does not build one herself, and the whole question of France's rights in the Canton-Macao neighbourhood will not bear investigation. There are next to no French trade and certainly no other French interests in the vicinity. A great parade of activity will not create rights, though it may impress the more ignorant among the Chinese. In this connection we may legitimately wonder whether the constant visits of French gunboats to Macao are expected to overawe the inhabitants. We are glad to see that the *Moorhen*, one of the best British river-gunboats, is now at Macao, since the general tendency seems to be to leave South China stripped of British warships throughout the summer.

We almost omitted to mention a curious complication which has arisen from the intrigues of the French missionaries near Macao. A long-standing arrangement with the Vatican has given to the Portuguese Roman Catholic authorities religious juris-

diction within a certain radius of Macao, and the entrance upon the scene of the French missionaries, without the consent of the Portuguese ecclesiastics, has violated this agreement and caused considerable resentment at Macao. It is intended, we have reason to believe, to appeal to the Vatican, but until the arrival at Macao of the new Bishop who is coming out from Lisbon matters are being allowed to rest.

ANOTHER DEPOSITION PLOT AT PEKING.

(Daily Press, 7th August.)

Our leading Shanghai contemporary, in its "Notes on Native Affairs," quotes from a communication addressed to a native official of high rank, temporarily residing in Shanghai, by a friend in Peking, the statement that it is believed by a large number of people connected with the various Boards in Peking that the enemies of the Emperor KWANG HSU are making fresh efforts to revive the question of His Majesty's deposition. The principal plotters, it is said, are YUNG LU (as we should naturally imagine) and LI LIEN-YING, the Empress Dowager's favourite eunuch, who in himself is the patron of numberless officials all over China. YUNG LU, the Peking writer points out, has gained in influence since his daughter's betrothal to Prince CHUN and that of his niece to the legal heir to the throne of China, Prince PU LUN. He aspires now to see some one closely connected with himself on the throne in place of H.M. KWANG HSU. But though YUNG and LI are conscious of their great influence, the letter goes on to argue, they look to a greater power to obtain the consent of the army and the Chinese in general to His Majesty's removal. This power is nothing less than Russia, to whom the intriguers are willing to give the protectorate over Tibet and, in event of the complete success of their schemes, the same position in Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan as Russia already has in Manchuria. Now we are not compelled to accept all the details of this plot as necessarily authentic. To do so would perhaps be to argue YUNG LU and his associate too simple-minded. We cannot believe that they can be still so ignorant of the world as to imagine the other Powers looking on at the despoliation of China for the sole benefit of Russia. Even YUNG LU, even LI LIEN-SHING must have learnt something from the events of the last two years. But that there should be a reactionary intrigue, aiming at the deposition of the reigning Emperor and the substitution on the throne of a connection of the most prominent Conservative, is only too likely. We remarked recently that it was the reactionaries, not the reformers, who had made the most progress since the return of the Chinese Imperial Court to Peking. Optimists looked to the return of the Court to the capital as the one thing needed to start reforms throughout China. They have been grievously disappointed. The Emperor appears to be as much caged in as ever, the Dowager Empress to be as prominent as before. YUNG LU and his friends have more, rather than less, weight in the Imperial councils, and the provincial Progressives hardly make themselves heard, certainly not as much as when the Court was still at Taiyuen-fu. In view of these facts, what is more probable than hopes should be inspired that the compulsory retirement of H.M. KWANG HSU is at least feasible and certainly worth aiming at, if but one friend can be found among the Great Powers? To the reactionaries Russia would inevitably be

suggested as this one friend. It is not at all necessary that Russia should know much about the ideas of YUNG LU's party. Her policy has been such as to encourage the hope which we have referred to above. And, however fantastic this hope may seem at first view, it is impossible to feel confident that a tacit support to the ideas of the Manchu and Chinese conservatives would not be lent by Russia—for a consideration.

THE SHANGHAI GARRISON QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 8th August.)

That the letter of Admiral Sir EDWARD H. SEYMOUR to the *Times*, with reference to the foreign garrisons at Shanghai, will be viewed sympathetically in Shanghai, as well as in the other ports of the Far East, we have little doubt. These garrisons were originally brought to Shanghai to guard against the supposed danger of attack from the natives outside the Settlements. That this danger was ever in the least degree likely we have no evidence for saying, but the panic was perhaps excusable in view of the reign of terror in the North. However, the troops having been sent to Shanghai for a specific purpose and the object of the despatch having very many months ago ceased to exist, justification is required for the maintenance of the garrisons in so peaceful a port as Shanghai. The military bands no doubt help to enliven the life of the foreign residents, but in other respects the presence of soldiers of four different nationalities hardly contributes to advance in any way the progress of the place. When we come to consider the international point of view, we are bound to agree with the late Admiral on this Station that there is no reason that can diplomatically be alleged openly which demands the continued presence at Shanghai of the troops from Europe and Japan. Viceroy LIU KUNG-YI has sent a complaint from Nanking to the foreign consuls at Shanghai remonstrating about the detention of the garrisons in a town within his jurisdiction, and no fair-minded man can say that he has acted unreasonably in so doing. The alleged dangers which threatened the foreign community at Shanghai and which were thought to necessitate the presence of quite a small allied army in the Settlements have long ago faded into oblivion, and yet Shanghai contains still the barracks of British, French, German, and Japanese soldiers. It is not the first time that H. E. LIU KUNG-YI, the Powers' most valuable ally during the crisis brought about by the Peking reactionaries, has pointed out the unfairness of holding Shanghai as a foreign-garrisoned port. The British, French, and Japanese Consuls at Shanghai, REUTER recently told us, concurred with the Nanking Viceroy's views, subject to reference to their respective Ministers at Peking. No information is given as to the attitude of the German Consul—an omission which we fear is significant. It is some months now since it has been known that the three first mentioned Powers were ready to withdraw their useless garrisons from Shanghai. On the other hand, in February last the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron von RICHTHOFEN, stated in the Reichstag that a German battalion would still be required at Shanghai "owing to the importance of this point d'appui to Germany, in the absence of a nearer base." Such an excuse, if admitted would justify Germany in settling down on any place in which she could get a foothold between Europe and South China. But the excuse is of course ridiculous and is no palliation for a gross breach of faith toward

China, or rather to the Nanking Viceroy, who so loyally withstood the temptation to yield to the pressure of his own reactionary countrymen in 1900. It is full time that the Powers now came to an understanding in the matter of Shanghai. As Admiral Seymour says, keen international competition demands the evacuation of Shanghai. Three of the four Powers involved are reasonable enough to see this. Whence this strange blindness on the part of Germany? The Germans have the reputation of being a highly intelligent people commercially, but by their clinging to the garrison at Shanghai they bely this reputation sadly. We more than suspect that some ideas about the "Yangtze" Agreement (as Count von Bülow and his fellow ministers persistently miscall the Anglo-German Agreement about China) are perverting the brains of the authorities in Germany responsible for the foolish proceeding at Shanghai. The matter does not, however, concern Germany alone, and it is time that diplomatic representations to this effect were made. A simultaneous withdrawal of the international troops will relieve Shanghai and promote the peace of the Far East.

THE EVACUATION OF MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 2nd August.)

It is more than a month now since Count Cassini on behalf of Russia formally notified the Home Department at Washington that his country had evacuated Manchuria and that the province was now ready for government by the Chinese. The Russian Ambassador also, the new mail papers inform us, authorised the publication of an interview with him, in which he gave his views about Lord Cranborne's statement in the House of Commons on Manchuria. The Ambassador considered it hardly frank to say that negotiations are proceeding for the evacuation of the province, since Manchuria had been returned to China, according to Russia's original programme and promise. The whole world, Count Cassini thought, must understand that Newchwang is only retained as a hostage for the evacuation of Tientsin; Newchwang and its railways would be returned to China whenever the corresponding obligations were fulfilled at Tientsin. Now with regard to Newchwang there is nothing much to be said. Tientsin is to be handed back to China on the 15th instant, if nothing untoward occurs, and Newchwang, according to Russia's engagement, will similarly be restored. But with regard to the evacuation of Manchuria, we are entitled to ask what meaning Count Cassini attaches to the words. It is a perfectly well known fact, endorsed from all sources of information in the North, that Manchuria has not been evacuated by the Russian troops. At the time when Count Cassini was making his assurance to Washington, advices were arriving from Manchuria that not the slightest indication of withdrawal was given on the part of the Tsar's forces. Now we are perfectly aware that what is in other professions and branches of life looked upon as barefaced mendacity is not so regarded in diplomacy. Nevertheless, there are some limits to the license allowed to the representative of a great Power in the assurances which he gives to other governments, and the Russian Ambassador at Washington has surely passed all limits in gravely assuring the United States Home Department that a promise had been fulfilled when to this day, more than a month

later, it still remains unfulfilled. The agents of the St. Petersburg government have performed some notable feats in "diplomacy," but this seems to surpass them all.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1901.

(Daily Press, 5th August.)

The bulk of Dr. J. M. ATKINSON's report on the health and sanitary condition of the Colony in 1901 was placed before our readers yesterday, but it will not be unprofitable to consider some of the main points again. The birth-rate, it will have been noticed, was higher than in 1900, while the death-rate lower—the latter in spite of the fact that the non-Chinese death-rate increased very slightly. But for plague, which accounted for 1,562 victims, the rate of mortality per 1,000 would have been only 19.03; it was actually 23.5 per 1,000. Turning to the principal diseases which attacked the Colony, we find that small-pox and plague were much worse in 1901 than in 1900. Beri-beri showed a slight increase, while enteric and malarial fevers were less severe. A table of cases of infectious disease during each month of 1901 shows the usual climax in May and June. The totals for the twelve months were:—January 12, February 37, March 101, April 192 (160 plague), May 721 (701 plague), June 569 (551 plague), July 118 (109 plague), August 30, September 34, October 8, November 14, December 11. The mortality-table of the different seasons likewise shows May and June the most fatal months, though were it not for plague and small-pox September, October, and December would have been the most fatal. Taking the four quarters of the year separately we find the death-rates per 1,000 were: first quarter, non-Chinese 16.92, Chinese 17.57; second quarter, non-Chinese 26.07, Chinese 34.06; third quarter, non-Chinese 20.13, Chinese 30.97; fourth quarter, non-Chinese 18.91, Chinese 21.27. Plague and small-pox between them accounted for 1,728 deaths out of a total of 7,082. Cholera had fortunately not made its appearance in Hongkong in 1901, the seventeen reported cases being all on one ship from Singapore.

It is easy to see from the figures above what gains for the Colony its unenviable reputation in the second quarter of the year. The tale is one which has been repeated ever since plague took a strong hold upon the island. 1901 was the fourth year in succession that the disease has been epidemic here—unhappily we must add that 1902 is the fifth year—and it was remarkable from the number of Europeans attacked, 30 in all, the previous highest being the 28 of 1898. Everyone will endorse the remark of Dr. ATKINSON as to the presence of plague for four years running showing the necessity of more radical measures being taken to improve the sanitary state of the Colony; and the chief result of the visit of the two experts sent out from England is therefore awaited with anxiety. By the "chief result," of course, we mean the proposed new Bill which deals with the whole question of sanitation and building in Hongkong. But in the meantime there is one statement of the Principal Civil Medical Officer with reference to plague to which particular attention must be called. The number of dead bodies found lying in the streets, says Dr. ATKINSON, accounts for the annual recurrence of plague, as of necessity the houses from which they come are not disinfected. "As long as this deposition of dead bodies in the streets

occurs, so long will plague continue in our midst." The dumping of plague-corpses this year has unfortunately prevailed to a greater extent than before, in proportion to the total number of deaths, and yet we have no evidence that the authorities are doing anything to prevent it beyond punishing the depositors when caught—that is, practically never. A proposal to fine the inhabitants of the neighbourhood where the corpse is found was rejected early this year, and dumping goes on merrily—if we can use such a qualification in this context. If it could be shown that the Government is right in treating the Chinese of Victoria entirely as if they were Londoners, Mancunians, etc., then the European resident here might also fold his hands and watch the plague being maintained in its virulence by actions which the Colony's Principal Civil Medical Officer declares will continue to nourish it in our midst. But the whole idea is a fallacy, upset time after time. We do not advocate treating our Chinese fellow-residents altogether after the methods of their own country's administrators, but there are some points in which the latter show considerable wisdom. It is in accordance with Chinese views that a neighbourhood should be held collectively responsible for outrages committed by any of its inhabitants if the offenders cannot be traced for certain. But the pseudo-humanitarians will of course listen to nothing of this, and we get plague-infected bodies thrown into the streets, the houses in which they had lived not disinfected, the epidemic flourishing for five successive years, and the advice of the Government's own medical advisers put in a Downing Street pigeonhole. If it were not for the deaths of the yearly victims, there would be an element of comedy in the situation. But Governments are not more necessarily endowed with a sense of humour than with commonsense.

THE CORONATION.

TELEGRAM FROM THE KING.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, kindly forwarded us on Friday the following copy of a telegram from the Secretary of State, London, to the Governor, Hongkong, dated 8th August:—
"Following is text of a letter which His Majesty the King has written to his people on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation:—
"To my people on the eve of my Coronation, an event which I look upon as one of the most solemn and important in my life.

"I am anxious to express to my people at home and in the Colonies and in India my heartfelt appreciation of the deep sympathy which they have manifested towards me during the time that my life was in such imminent danger. The postponement of the ceremony owing to my illness caused, I fear, much inconvenience and trouble to those who intended to celebrate it, but their disappointment was borne by them with admirable patience and temper. The prayers of my people for my recovery were heard, and I now offer up my deepest gratitude to Divine Providence for having preserved my life and given me strength to fulfil the important duties which devolve upon me as the Sovereign of this great Empire.

"(Sd.) EDWARD R. AND I."

Buckingham Palace,
8th August, 1902.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Commander.—M. H. Nelson, to the *Endymion*, P. D'A. de Saumarez, to the *Ocean*; Lieutenants.—H. D. Colville, to the *Glory*, to date June 26; J. Jones, to the *Kinsha*, H. Gratton, to the *Alacrity*, J. M. Maxwell-Scott, to the *Talbot*, W. T. R. Ford, to the *Rambler*, G. G. P. Hewett, to the *Vestal* (N), H. Greenwood, to the *Albion*, and I. Mackenzie, to the *Rambler*, all reappointed on promotion, to date June 26.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 8th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Major-General Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, KNT. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. W. CLARK (Medical Officer of Health).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 36 and 37) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded. He said—I should point out, sir, that the adoption of this report involves the passing of the resolution No. 4 on the agenda.

The resolution referred to was as follows:—
“It is hereby resolved that all pensions paid in England from the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund be paid at the rate of three shillings the dollar, the difference between that rate and the rate of the day being made good out of the revenue of the Colony.”

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR put the question of which he had given notice at the previous meeting:—Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary state whether the Report of the Commission on the Public Works Department recommending an increase in the staff has been carried out in its entirety? and if not, why not? In view of Mr. Chadwick's report that “the Public Works staff is much undermanned in every branch, both technical and clerical,” and in view of the fact that the new Ordinance now before the Council will vastly increase the work and responsibilities of the Public Works Department far beyond the requirements advised by the Commission, are the Government making arrangements for a still further increase of the staff?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said—The answer to the hon. member's question is as follows:—The whole of the staff recommended by the Commission which enquired into the Public Works Department has been recommended to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with the exception of one assistant engineer for maintenance work and one overseer for roads inside the City. The increase of staff recommended by the Commission was based on the assumption that a sum of nearly \$800,000 (the amount appearing in this year's Estimates) a year would be spent annually on public works extraordinary. With the large expenditure on water-works, part of which are being carried out by a private firm, it is not contemplated that the Colony will be able to spend as much as appears in this year's Estimates for public works exclusive of water-works. Therefore a smaller staff than what was recommended appears sufficient.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of Hongkong for the year 1901; the Report of the Principal Civil Medical Officer for the year 1901; the Report on the Assessment for the year 1902-1903; and a paper on the Rate of Exchange for Payment of Pensions under Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

A POINT OF ORDER.

When No. 5 of the agenda came up, Hon. R. SHEWAN rose to a point of order. He said—No. 4 does not seem to have come up.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I explained it. Hon. R. SHEWAN—Excuse me, I am addressing the President of the Council. No. 4 does not seem to have come up yet.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The resolution, you mean. Hon. R. SHEWAN—Yes, sir.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I thought you heard that the Colonial Treasurer explained that the report of the Finance Committee included the resolution in it.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—No, sir; with regard to No. 4 I did not hear him say that. I had an amendment to move to No. 4.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Well, I thought it was understood.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—It was not understood by me, sir.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—We could go back to No. 4 after we dispose of this item (No. 5).

HIS EXCELLENCY—Yes, we can go back to it.

The Council then proceeded to consider No. 5 of the agenda.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE RATING ORDINANCE, 1901.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL then moved that the standing orders be suspended to allow the Bill to be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading. He said—The objects and reasons are appended to the Bill. It is introduced in order simply to extend the boundaries of the City of Victoria for rating purposes. The objects and reasons are as follows:—The object is to extend the southern and eastern boundaries of Victoria in order to include (1) tenements up to 700 feet above the sea; (2) tenements through which the existing Eastern boundary now runs.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion and it was agreed to.

The Council went into Committee on the Bill and considered it clause by clause.

On resuming, the Bill was afterwards read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Reverting to the matter of the rate of payment of pensions to the widows and orphans of deceased Civil servants of the Colony, HIS EXCELLENCY, addressing the Hon. R. SHEWAN, said—I thought you understood—I beg your pardon for not having spoken a little plainer—but I thought you understood that the Colonial Treasurer mentioned that this item was also included in the report of the Finance Committee, and therefore if that were adopted I took it for granted that we should adopt the whole thing. I think perhaps the best plan would be for you to move your amendment now.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Then, sir, I beg to move that the Government inform Mr. Secretary Chamberlain that while agreeing to the resolution, the unofficial members deprecate such eleemosynary grants, and think that any assistance to Civil servants of this kind should take the form of an increase of salaries. I do not oppose this resolution, for nobody has more sympathy than I for widows and orphans, but I do regret the form this resolution taken. In the first place, we have no information as to how and why this fund is formed, who subscribe to it and who do not, whether all Civil servants subscribe to it or not, and why we should be asked to subscribe such a large proportion as 1s. 3d. on the dollar, while Ceylon only pays 2d. on the rupee—about 12½ per cent. In the second place, I do not see why the widows and orphans of the Civil servants of this Colony should be thrown on the charity of this Colony. We either pay our Civil servants properly or we do not, and if we do they should be able to put by enough to insure their lives for the benefit of their widows and orphans. If we are not paying them enough, we had better increase their salaries and be done with it. Now, there

are a good many Scotsmen round this table—(The COLONIAL TREASURER—Hear, hear)—and they will recollect that a great poet has said—

“To gather gear by every wile
That's justified by honour;
Not for to hide it in a hedge,
Nor for a train attendant;
But for the glorious privilege
Of being independent.”

Now, sir, I do not think that this grant at all strengthens that principle; it is entirely subversive of the principle of independence, and tends to make a man, not independent, but dependent, and I submit that any man who deserves the name of man should be proud to support his own wife and children, and not leave them dependent on the charity of this Colony. With these remarks, sir, I beg to move the amendment I have already read.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR seconded.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I explained in Finance Committee that this question effected Civil servants, and that therefore they were not allowed to vote on it, and will not do so when the amendment is put. With regard to the remarks of the hon. member, he seems to attack the whole system of pensions. These are pensions for the widows and orphans of public officers, and every public officer joining the Service after a certain date has got to contribute to the fund. The resolution before the Finance Committee means simply to enable these pensions to be paid in England at a certain rate of exchange. There is now only one such pension payable, but it is impossible for me to tell how many there may be payable in the future, and therefore I cannot give any indication of what sum will in future be involved, but I should imagine it will not be a very large one.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Then, sir, I beg to give notice that I will ask at the next meeting of Council that the despatch from Mr. Chamberlain to the Colonial Government, No. 33 of 1902, which has been laid on the table to-day, be published in the Gazette.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—You withdraw the amendment you have already moved, do I understand?

Hon. R. SHEWAN—No, the amendment has been seconded.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I thought you withdrew it.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—No, I have obtained no information in answer to my enquiries.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The amendment that has been proposed by the hon. member is as follows:—“That the Government inform Mr. Secretary Chamberlain that while agreeing to the resolution, the unofficial members deprecate such eleemosynary grants, and think that any assistance to Civil servants of this kind should take the form of an increase of salaries.” By the wording of this, I understand you agree to the resolution?

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Certainly, sir; I do not oppose the resolution. I said that at the beginning.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It is in the form of a rider to the resolution.

The HARBOUR MASTER—Sir, I rise to order. I do not think the official members are able to vote on this.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The proper way would be for the unofficial members to protest, or to add a rider. I do not know whether the point has ever arisen in this Council, but I know that in other Councils in which I have sat, and they have been very many, the protest was usually laid down in the form of a despatch from the unofficial members.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I think, sir, the practice of this Council is very much the same as has been represented by the Hon. Attorney-General. So far as this matter is concerned, I, the Senior Unofficial Member, have heard nothing of it until this day, and in former times it has been the custom for the unofficial members to meet together and resolve over something of the kind and then notify it to the Governor as an expression of opinion. If the hon. member on my right wished to bring this matter forward I should have been pleased to consult with him.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR—I speak on behalf of the hon. member on my right when I say that in apology we must plead being new members entirely ignorant of

any custom as to consulting the Senior Unofficial Member, and I am very sorry we did not do it. While I am on the subject, sir—if I am speaking within my rights—it seems to me as a new member coming here that the standing rules and orders are very incomplete, and I would appeal to the Attorney-General to ask if he cannot out of his lengthened experience give us something better.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Then I would like to know how the matter stands. I can scarcely, I think, receive it, however much I might wish to do so. As the Attorney-General has pointed out, the proper way would be to draw up a protest, which this virtually is, against what you think wrong; but I think this can hardly be accepted as an amendment.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—That being so, sir, I beg to withdraw the amendment, and my seconder is willing to follow the same course. I only brought it up in order to ventilate the matter, because I did not think it right that the unofficial members should be asked to vote away money without knowing how much they were voting. I now beg to give notice of the motion already standing in my name.

HIS EXCELLENCY—To what does the hon. member refer—the despatch from Mr. Chamberlain about the widows' and orphans fund?

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Yes to have it published in the *Gazette*.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I take it, sir, that if anything is done with that despatch it will be laid on the table, not published in the papers?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It has already been published in the *Gazette*, a fortnight ago.

HIS EXCELLENCY—It was laid on the table at the last meeting of Council, at which I think the member was not present.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—If it has already been published in the *Government Gazette*, I apologise for the trouble I am causing.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It has been published.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Then I understand the hon. member to withdraw this?

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Yes, sir.

The HARBOUR MASTER—We appear, sir, to be suffering from a want of information.

THE BUILDINGS BILL.

The next item down on the agenda was the second reading of the bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Public Health and to Buildings.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I had intended to save delay by bringing this Bill up for the second reading to-day, as I was under the impression that His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, the Governor, would probably wait in England to attend the second Coronation ceremonial. Since then I learned that Sir Henry Blake will be with us within a very few days. He is expected here on the 19th. After a great deal of consideration and although I am against postponing this Bill, I thought it would be fairer to him and to you that the same chairman should carry out the whole important matter, which is the second reading of the Bill and the time spent in considering it clause by clause in Committee. Therefore I have settled to postpone the second reading until after the arrival of Sir Henry Blake. (Applause.)

THE WATER BILL.

The Council then resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for and regulate the Supply of Water in the Colony of Hongkong and for the Maintenance and Repair of the Works in connection therewith.

The following sub-sections were added to section 5.—In the case of any tenement house in the City of Victoria, the Water Authority shall disconnect the service within a period of fourteen days from the date of notice in writing having been served on the owner by the Water Authority or within such extended period as may be conceded by the Water Authority, and shall refuse to re-connect the same and shall also refuse to connect any new service unless such owner shall have obtained the previous consent of the Governor in Council; and (2) in no case shall the Water Authority disconnect any service until in his opinion there shall be established an adequate provision of public fountains.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR proposed as a third sub-section to this section that "In the

event of the service of any tenement house being disconnected by the Water Authority under the powers conferred by this section, no tenant shall be entitled to determine his tenancy or shall have any right of action against his lessor by reason of such service being disconnected." This addition might not be of very much importance, but he thought it would have the effect of preventing litigation in cases where there might be quarrels between landlords and tenants. He had not brought this forward without consulting one of the leading barristers of the Colony, and the latter had drafted it for him.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL did not think that the last part of the proposed amendment, beginning at the words "or shall have any right of action," was at all necessary. With regard to the former part he did not have any objection to putting in certain words to prevent litigation, but he did not know why they should prevent a tenant giving up his tenancy if he so desired. The landlord and tenant might be left to settle any differences in the ordinary way between man and man. Although it would be hard on the landlord for the tenant to draw out of his tenancy, it would be equally hard on the tenant to compel him to retain his tenancy.

The COLONIAL TREASURER thought the landlord and tenant should be allowed to settle their differences in the usual way.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was convinced that the introduction of this proposed amendment would set a very bad precedent.

The HARBOUR MASTER pointed out that it could be made to press hard upon a tenant who wanted to leave a house not because of the want of water but perhaps for some entirely different reason.

On a division, the proposed amendment was defeated by 7 votes to 6 the minority being Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs Wei A Yuk, C. S. Sharp, C. W. Dickson, G. W. F. Playfair, and R. Shewan.

Some minor amendments were afterwards made.

On the Council resuming.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI said that on behalf of the Chinese community he must move that the Bill be not read a third time. It was the intention of the Chinese to present a petition to the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies against the Bill.

Hon. WEI A YUK seconded.

The third reading was accordingly deferred.

The Council adjourned until next Wednesday at 3 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

SUPPRESSION OF MOSQUITOES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$175 to meet the pay of a native non-commissioned officer to supervise the work in connection with the suppression of mosquitoes from 10th July to 31st December, 1902, inclusive.

The vote was agreed to.

DAMAGE BY TYPHOON.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$880.79 to cover the cost of repairing the matchsheds, etc., at Taipo, damaged by the typhoon of the 18th July, 1902.

The CHAIRMAN stated that these sheds were occupied by a large staff of clerks and officers in connection with the Land Survey. The sheds had been practically blown away.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

The U.S.S. *Buffalo* arrived at Singapore on the 26th ult., having left New York on the 5th June. She goes on to Manila.

We notice the establishment at Bangkok of a Siam Hotels Company, Limited, with a capital of 100,000 ticals. This company is formed to acquire, establish, and carry on hotels in Siam, and the first hotel to be taken up is the Oriental Hotel at Bangkok.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 8th inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, and Mr. Lan Chu Pak.

PLAGUE PREVENTION.

Further correspondence was laid on the table with reference to Professor Simpson's memoranda on plague prevention, especially with reference to the inspection of vessels arriving from Canton, Macao, and the West River during the months of January to June, and including a draft of additional quarantine regulations; also a letter from the Council stating that they advised that such inspection was impracticable and should not be carried out.

The Principal Civil Medical Officer minuted:—"Until some measures are taken to prevent the introduction of the disease from neighbouring infected towns—I refer more especially to Canton—I do not know how we can expect to keep free of this disease. Even if we succeed in stamping it out of our midst, we shall always be exposed to the risk of infection from this town."

The Captain Superintendent of Police minuted:—"I have always thought the medical examination impracticable, but we had to support the 'experts.' Besides no plague patient ever comes to Hongkong if he can help it."

The PRESIDENT—This matter refers to the recommendation originally made by Prof. Simpson, and has been considered by the Government and the Government have decided that this is impracticable. I think it is a pity, because, as my minute states, the fact of our being so near to a large town like Canton, where plague occurs practically every year, must be an important factor in the continued epidemic outbreak of the disease in Hongkong. With regard to plague, it is a difficult matter to come to some definite issue upon it, but I think the Board might recommend the Government to consider the question of advising the steamboat companies to supply during these six months of the year medical men on board the boats, in order to be able to detect, and to report when the steamers arrive here, any case of anyone suffering from this disease.

Hon. Dr. CLARK (to Mr. Osborne)—Have you anything to say?

Mr. OSBORNE—It is no use saying anything. The Government have decided to do nothing with it.

SCHEME FOR A SPECIAL PLAGUE STAFF.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to a scheme of organisation of a special plague staff; also a draft prepared by the Medical Officer of Health. The permanent staff proposed was as follows:—2 assistant M.O.H.'s, 2 Chinese assistants to the Bacteriologist for the examination of rats, 6 first-class inspectors, 1 clerk for the disinfecting stations, 5 foremen interpreters, 5 Chinese foremen, 20 artisans, 40 disinfecting coolies, 3 foremen rat-catchers, 3 rat-catchers. The additional staff required for not more than 20 cases of plague a week was as follows:—A temporary inspector in charge of burials, a temporary inspector in charge of observation block, 1 foreman interpreter, 1 Chinese foreman, 12 coolies for the removal of ambulances and dead-carts, contractors carrying coolies for the conveyance of clothing, removal of rubbish, etc., as certified by one of the assistant M.O.H.'s. For not more than 50 cases a week the following further additions would be required:—Six temporary inspectors for disinfection, a temporary inspector in charge of second observation block, 6 foremen interpreters, 20 artisans, 40 disinfecting coolies, 6 coolies for ambulances and dead-carts and the necessary number of contractors carrying coolies. For over 80 cases a week, the further additions required would be:—6 temporary inspectors for disinfection, 6 foremen interpreters, 20 artisans, 40 disinfecting coolies, 12 coolies for ambulances and dead-carts and additional carrying coolies as required. The schedule of salaries paid to temporary staff

during 1902 was:—Bacteriological assistants, \$240 a month; temporary inspectors, \$125; foremen interpreters, \$35; artisans, \$15; Chinese foremen, \$15; disinfecting coolies, \$12; foremen rat-catchers, \$35; contractors' coolies, 40 cents a day. The duties of the assistant medical officers was to investigate all uncertified deaths, visit premises in which cases of plague had occurred and investigate, visit houses in which infected rats had been found, and report; superintend work of plague inspector, authorise employment of contractors' coolies; and report generally to the M. O. H. The plague inspectors were to examine buildings for rat-holes and rat-runs, serve notices in respect of same and prosecute in cases of default, disinfect buildings, keep a record of number of men employed, of stores, etc. The clerk at the disinfecting station would attend to the telephone and keep the books and records; the foremen interpreters were to act as interpreters to the inspectors and assist in the work; and the Chinese foremen, artisans, and coolies to be employed in the general disinfecting works. Appended to the draft of the scheme were directions for cleansing insanitary houses and blocks of buildings.

The Principal Civil Medical Officer minuted:—"I think it most essential that a general cleaning of the Chinese houses should take place during the winter months as was instituted last year; this to commence in October, or November at the latest. I have added to the duties of the first-class inspectors that they shall be responsible for the efficient disinfection of the plague houses it is not enough to say they shall direct them. I think the observation block when in use should be visited daily by one of the assistant M.O.H.'s. Immediate steps should be taken to obtain the assistant M.O.H.'s and the sanitary inspectors: this staff, I suppose, is only temporary, as it is to be hoped that in the course of the next few years we will stamp out this disease."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"I see fumigation is not provided for; it must have proved ineffectual. Nos. 4, 5 and 7 and latter part of 8 of the directions for general cleansing as, now, recommended by the M.O.H., are, I understand, only applied to the infected houses, and should therefore be given separately. If lumped together, unnecessary hardship will be inflicted through misunderstanding by the staff."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun minuted:—"The directions should only be applied to infected premises. The word 'insanitary' is too general."

The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—"The directions alluded to are stated to be subject to the discretion of the supervising medical officers, of whom there are to be two specially for plague work—i.e., in addition to the present two. They are not to be applied solely to premises on which a case of plague has occurred which is what I suppose Messrs. Lau Chu Pak and Fung Wa Chun mean by infected premises."

The PRESIDENT—I move that the Board adopt this scheme.

Mr. E. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary, Mr. G. A. Woodcock, was formally granted two months' leave of absence.

LIMEWASHING.

A letter was submitted from Mr. E. Osbourne, secretary of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., stating that they proposed to limewash their employees' quarters at Kowloon three times a year, January, May, and September, and asking if the Board would exempt them from limewashing in March and April.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. BADELEY, the application was granted.

ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Returns were laid on the table showing that the Government Analyst had analysed samples of water from the public supplies for the month of July and had found them to be of excellent quality.

LIMEWASHING RETURNS.

It was reported that at 21st July, 89 houses in the Eastern and 2,475 in the Western had been limewashed. At 2nd August the numbers respectively were 239 and 2,433.

THE DEATH-RATE.

The death-rate for the week ended 19th July was reported to have been 23.0, as compared

with 28.1 in the previous week and 16.9 in the corresponding week of the previous year.

CH LERA AT MACAO.

Hon. Dr. Clark recommended for the consideration of the Board that the restrictions imposed upon arrivals from Macao be now removed, as cholera appeared to have ceased to prevail at that port.

In moving this resolution, Hon. Dr. CLARK stated that the last three weekly returns had shown Macao to be free of cholera.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

SEIZURE OF UNSOUND FOOD.

Hon. Dr. Clark recommended that the Board authorise Inspector Robert McEwen, Inspector of Markets, to enter any shop or premises used for the sale or storage or preparation of food, to examine any food found therein intended for human consumption which he had reason to believe was unfit for such use, and to seize the same and convey it to the office for inspection. Should the food prove to be bad the Board had power under Section 21 of Ordinance 13 of 1901 to order it to be destroyed and might prosecute the person in whose possession it had been found.

Hon. Dr. CLARK in laying his recommendation before the Board stated that a few of their Inspectors had this power already and it was only proper that it should also be possessed by the Inspector of Markets.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. MESSER, the recommendation was approved.

RAT-CATCHING.

Mr. OSBORNE asked the Medical Officer of Health if he could give any information as to how the rat-catching was getting on?

Hon. Dr. CLARK stated that the latest returns were as follows for the City of Victoria:—1st August, 58; 2nd, 58; 3rd, 44; 4th, 25; 5th, 103; 6th, 87; 7th, 80—that was an average of about 70 a day.

Mr. OSBORNE—We used to get about 4,000.

Hon. Dr. CLARK—Nearly that; but of course we have reduced the number of rat-catchers.

Mr. MESSER—How many rat-catchers have you now?

Hon. Dr. CLARK—We have a different arrangement now—one foreman and two coolies in each district, and they all share the profits. Before that we had ten coolies, and a foreman in each two districts, I think.

The PRESIDENT—That is 36 coolies in 12 districts?

Hon. Dr. CLARK—Yes; now they get only 3, 5, 10 and 7 a day. There are many reasons for the number going down. The floods have swept many away.

This was all the public business.

KING'S PARK OPENING.

Thrice postponed, the ceremony of turning the first sod of the new King's Park at Kowloon was performed on the 6th inst. by H.E. Major-General Sir W. J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., Officer Administering the Government. In spite of these many delays, however, the spectacular effect yesterday was not in any way diminished, many members of the general public being present in addition to the members of the Coronation Committee and their wives, heads of Government departments, and staff and regimental officers. The Government had chartered for the occasion two of the double-deck launches of the Star Ferry Company, and these conveyed intending spectators across the harbour to Blackhead's pier which is within easy distance of the park. Drawn up at the entrance to the new "breathing lung" of the Colony were the band and a company of the Hongkong Regiment under Major Berger, the officer commanding the regiment, and when His Excellency arrived arms were presented in the general salute and six bars of the National Anthem played. On his arrival Major-General Gascoigne, Lady Gascoigne and suite were received by His Honour W. Meigh Goodman, Chief Justice, Chairman of the Coronation Committee, and conducted to the stand which had been specially erected for the occasion. Among others present were Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, Harbour Master; His Honour A. G. Wise, Puisne Judge; Hon. C. S. Sharp, Hon.

G. W. F. Playfair, Hon. R. Shewan; Hon. Captain H. W. Trefusis, A.D.C.; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. R. F. Johnston, Private Secretary to His Excellency; Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. G. Stewart, Mr. H. P. Tooker, and Chevalier Z. Volpicelli.

In asking His Excellency to proceed with the ceremony of cutting the sod, His Lordship the CHIEF JUSTICE said—Your Excellency, On behalf of the Coronation Committee I have now the honour to ask your Excellency to perform the ceremony of cutting the first sod of the King's Park, and at the same time I would ask Lady Gascoigne to be so kind as to plant a small tree in memory of the occasion. It will probably take some considerable period of time for the present rough site to take the shape of what we usually know as a park, but everything must have a beginning, and we trust that in future years the people of this Colony will reap the benefit of the park that you have come here to inaugurate to-day. (Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Chief Justice, ladies and gentlemen, I confess that it is with a certain amount of diffidence that I approach you this afternoon, because I fear almost that of late my public utterances have been a little too frequent. That has not been my fault, but I fear lest I should weary you by listening to speeches from one man and that man moreover one to whom public speaking does not come so easily as it does to many. I would ask you to believe one thing, however, and that is that every word that I say I always honestly and truly mean. When I tell you, therefore, that I consider it the highest privilege and honour to be allowed to be identified with the opening of this park, which I believe will be an enormous boon to the future residents of Kowloon: when I tell you this, ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will take my words in their fullest meaning. I think the history of this park is pretty well known to every one, but it may not be out of place just to give a short summary of the facts. Nearly four years ago a scheme was brought forward by Mr. Ford, the head of the Botanical Department, to whom therefore, the principal credit is certainly due. (Applause.) Well, the scheme came before me in my capacity of Officer Commanding the Troops, and I opposed it. Looking back to my reasons now I can truly say that my opposition at that time was as honest as have been my endeavours now of late to further the scheme. But it is simply that my views have broadened as my experience here grew. First of all, I had no means then of being able to see the enormous progress and prosperity that I foretell both for Hongkong and Kowloon. Then also the garrison of these days was about one-half the strength it is now, and it seemed to me then that with the small garrison it was better to keep it together because I had not then realised the enormous possibilities of this Kowloon hinterland, which we had not at that time occupied—the possibilities for manœuvring troops which I think are enjoyed in hardly any other place in the world; the possibilities of rifle exercise for the troops, which I think are of a higher scope than you can find almost anywhere else; and, lastly, the possibilities of quartering troops in healthy camps where they can practise those manœuvres and rifle exercises which our recent experiences in South Africa have shown to be so necessary for the proper training of troops. So when Mr. Stewart Lockhart, the late Colonial Secretary, brought up the scheme again to me, my former objections were removed, and I endeavoured to further the scheme in all possible ways. He brought the scheme up first to the Coronation Committee and it was accepted by them; and I believe also it has been accepted by the whole of the people of Hongkong and Kowloon. (Applause.) But the time was short. It was proposed to make it a part of the Coronation celebration. The time was short to do it. There are many interests involved. The Navy has interests, the Army has interests, and the Colonial Government have great interests. I was going to say at first that these interests were conflicting, but as long as the present Colonial Secretary, Mr. May, and myself are working together I can truly say that those interests will never be conflicting, because both he and myself share the same views that the Navy and the Army and the civil and commercial element all go hand in hand and depend

each upon the other. (Applause.) Therefore wherever there are many interests it is simply a case of give and take. But, ladies and gentlemen, where there are many interests it takes time for their adjustment and therefore I was very glad to hear the Chief Justice say that you must not expect because this park has been opened to-day you will in a few week's time have a properly equipped park. The main fact of the question is that the Secretary for War and the Secretary of State for the Colonies have both promised that this park shall be, and therefore the park is an accomplished fact, although it may take some little time to get it into proper order and adjust the interests I have already spoken of. Well, you know that the opening of this park was intended to form part of the Coronation celebrations—the Coronation of our King. We all remember, every one of us here, the feeling of horror, almost of despair, when the news came of the King's dangerous illness and how the Coronation had to be postponed; but happily we have better news now. But as it was postponed I was content that I should take a back seat. I was content with having done my little part in connection with the park and it did not signify who opened it. I was anxious that the actual opening ceremony should not take place until the park was ready really to be opened. But a number of the principal residents of Kowloon—some 250 of them—came forward and in a petition to which they signed their names asked me in a way which I can never forget if I, who had been interested in this park, would come to open it. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I can only tell you that of the many kindnesses I have received in Hongkong this was the greatest kindness and the greatest honour, and both myself and my wife will never forget it. Well, naturally, I cordially and gladly accepted the invitation. Therefore to-day it is my great honour and my great pleasure to take a part in this opening ceremony of the King's Park. I believe as I said before that it will be a lasting boon to the future residents of Kowloon; and I trust that they will always associate with it the name of King Edward the VII, our King whom we thought at one time was to be taken away from us by death suddenly in the moment of his Coronation; but thanks to God's mercy we hope he has recovered and will live to rule us for many years. (Applause.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, with your permission I will proceed to carry out the programme.

His Excellency then walked over to where a spade had been already placed in the ground and cut out a square piece of the turf which he cast into a two-wheeled barrow standing near. The conclusion of the ceremony was marked by His Excellency turning the barrow over and throwing out the sod, and when the accompanying applause had subsided he said—This is the first sod of the King's Park, and I ask you all to give three cheers for His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

The cheers were given with a will, Major-General Gascoigne leading off with helmet in hand.

At the invitation of the Chief Justice, Lady Gascoigne then performed the ceremony of planting a small tree to commemorate the occasion. The tree was suspended from a bamboo tripod, and was lowered into the hole formed in the ground by the unloosing of a white cord retaining it in its place. This ceremony, like the one preceding, was loudly cheered, and was gracefully marked by the presentation to Lady Gascoigne by the youngest Miss Goodman of a handsome basket of flowers.

Addressing His Excellency, the CHIEF JUSTICE said—On behalf of the Coronation Committee, I should like to say one word only. We had hoped to be able to present Your Excellency with a souvenir of this occasion in the shape of a little silver barrow, but the silversmith has not completed his work and we would ask Your Excellency to do us the honour of accepting it when the work is finished. (Applause.)

In reply, HIS EXCELLENCY said—Chief Justice, ladies and gentlemen—I am not going to inflict a long speech upon you now. I am afraid I made a long one just now but, as I have said, everything had to be explained, and it took some little time

to do so. It only remains for me to thank you from the bottom of my heart for having honoured us by identifying both myself and my wife with this opening ceremony, and also to thank you for so kindly coming here to see it. I know that in the present state of the weather it was a strong and a plucky thing for many ladies to come here. With the typhoons we have had and with the heavy storm this morning it is a kind and gracious act you have done, and I beg to thank you all. Before I conclude, I must also thank the Chief Justice and the Coronation Committee, especially Mr. Chatham and Mr. Hewett. Mr. Chatham has put up things not once or twice, but I think three or four times, and as he put up the matshed so the typhoon blew in down. (Laughter.) Yet, at the same time, he went on with perseverance; so with Mr. Hewett. He determined the thing should be done, and determined it against typhoons and against the weather. I have to thank them with my whole heart and to thank you all. (Applause.)

The proceedings concluded with three cheers for Major-General and Lady Gascoigne, given on the call of the CHIEF JUSTICE. His Excellency was again received with the general salute and the playing of part of the National Anthem as he passed the company of the Hongkong Regiment, which presented a fine appearance and drew admiring remarks from everyone.

THE TYPHOON.

VICTORIA.

The typhoon which overswept the Colony on the 2nd inst. was the most violent since the ill-fated 10th November, 1900, a date that will ever be recalled with a feeling of sadness by reason of the terrible loss in life and property, a loss, indeed, that has never been properly estimated. Saturday's storm, happily, though bad enough, was not accompanied by such disastrous consequences as that of November two years ago, the loss of life on land at least probably not exceeding twenty persons, all of them Chinese, and the damage to property, everything considered, being comparatively trifling.

The first warning of the typhoon—the third in as many weeks of whose approach we had been notified—came at 5.15 a.m. on the 2nd inst., when the red drum was hoisted. This, at 10.35 a.m., was replaced by the black drum. At 11 a.m. a notice was issued from the Observatory stating that the typhoon appeared to be situated to the south of Swatow, and was moving W.N.W. It was predicted that strong N.W. to S.W. winds, and possibly a gale, might be expected in Hongkong, where the barometer had fallen a quarter of an inch.

The prediction from the Observatory was more than fulfilled. Towards the middle of the day the wind became squally and a penetrating rain fell; as the hours passed these conditions intensified and everything pointed to extremely bad weather. About four o'clock the typhoon gun from the Tamar was heard, and, as though the elements had until then been held in leash, down came the rain in torrents, whilst the wind strengthened to a gale and whipped the waters of the harbour into fury. It was doubtless this conjunction of wind and rain that caused the several collapses which occurred throughout the city, for, though many of the houses inhabited by the poorer Chinese may withstand a gale of wind, few of them are built of the material to outlast a soddening rain driven for hours into the very foundations almost. The most serious accident was that which happened at 46, Wanchai Road, at its junction with Nullah Lane, a few hundred yards from No. 2 Police Station, causing the death, it is reported, of nine natives and the injury of five others. The house fell in with a great crash about a quarter-past ten on Saturday night, soon after the typhoon changed direction. The police under Inspector Warnock toiled ardently at the work of rescue, for from the debris could be heard the cries of some of the buried people. Assistance was sent from the Central Police Station, and, one after another, five living people, one or two terribly injured, were recovered from the ruins. The last man to be taken out alive was rescued at ten o'clock yesterday morning, after having

been buried for twelve hours. He shouted almost incessantly throughout the night, and so guided the rescuers to the spot where he lay. Fourteen people were known to be in the house when it fell, and on the 3rd inst. four were still missing. Two policemen had a narrow escape, a part of the top floor of the adjoining house coming down when they were searching the ruins and falling within uncomfortably short distance of where they were working.

In Second Street, West Point, three dwelling-houses were blown down, five Chinese being killed and six more or less seriously injured. Part of an embankment collapsed and fell against the coolie-quarters attached to "The Pines," Peak Road, the residence of Mr. T. P. Cochrane, of the Chartered Bank. Three coolies were taken out alive by the police, but two were killed.

These, so far as is certainly known, are the only accidents which were attended by fatal results, but numerous lesser ones are reported from nearly every district in the city and its suburbs. A house in course of erection in Old Bailey fell to the ground, and a landslide occurred in Macdonnell Road, at its junction with Kennedy Road. A landslide also occurred farther down Kennedy Road, just above the Wesleyan Chapel, near Happy Valley, and, falling against the door of the chapel, carried it away and filled the building with a great mass of debris. The harmonium, it is said, is almost completely buried. The verandah of a house in Caine Road gave way, fortunately without injuring anyone. Several houses in course of erection on Caine and Bonham Roads were partially blown down, and in two or three cases large new retaining walls have slipped, in one case, near Breezy Point, entirely blocking up the road and rendering it impossible for any but pedestrians. Three houses in Winglok Street, West Point, and one in Des Vœux Road, fell, again without causing hurt to any person, as was the case also with the collapse of two houses in Ladder Street and part of a retaining wall in Seymour Road. In Bridges Street, West Point, a building in course of erection succumbed to the gale, as did no less than seven houses in Third Street, situated in the same district; these, however, were not entirely destroyed, and so far as is known no one sustained injury. The whole of the verandah on the west side at Ball's Court, the residence of Mr. Lopes, also gave way.

This completes the detailed list of collapses that had on the 3rd inst. been compiled by the police, but reports from several districts both in Hongkong and Kowloon are still to come in. In many parts of Victoria the telephone wires have suffered, and communication with the central part of the city was on the 3rd inst. entirely cut off.

The matshed and ticket-boxes at the Star Ferry Company's pier were wrecked completely, whilst by a strange chance the matshed shelter on the adjacent Queen's Statue wharf was left practically unharmed. The matshed at the former pier was approaching completion after having suffered by the gale of a fortnight ago. In falling, it cut the heads of several coolies who were standing near by. Many streets in the city were flooded. The electric light plant must have suffered, for in many places yesterday a supply of the fluid was unobtainable till late in the day. The Hongkong Club was without light till after six o'clock in the evening, and from the same cause the electric fans failed in their functions. In Des Vœux Road the falling wires gave off three lurid bursts of light, just like a series of small explosions. Near the Naval Yard great trees were uprooted and driven where they lay into the ground. The tennis-courts were completely ruined.

KOWLOON.

In Kowloon, overturned ma'sheds; uprooted trees, and flooded streets, fields, and gardens, testify to the great severity of the storm. The matshed at the Star Ferry pier is dismantled and the framework stands out like a colossal skeleton. The matsheds at the entrance to two of the wharves of the Godown Company were also blown down, but gangs of coolies were soon at work to clear the obstructions and so reopen the wharves to traffic. The premises of the Victoria Recreation Club have vanished (even the brick foundations

being wrenched out), as also have parts of the matshed covering of the Admiralty patent fuel stored opposite. Beyond the statement that only three conservancy boats were wrecked off Yaumati, without loss of life, no official reports have yet been received to give any indication of the extent of the damage in Yaumati and the outlying Kowloon districts, but a visit to Yaumati on Saturday afternoon showed numbers of sampans hauled up high and dry on the beach, their owners seated in comparative comfort inside, propitiating the storm fiend by burning joss-sticks. Innumerable streets are flooded, some of them more than ankle-deep, and others again are rendered almost impassable by the uprooted trees lying, in many instances, right across their width. On the 3rd inst. Yaumati was practically knee-deep in water.

The spectacle along the Praya on the 2nd inst. was one of wild grandeur, the waves rising in great cascades over the sea-wall and dashing in hilly masses of spray and foam across the entire width of the Praya. The few hardy spirits who, waterproof-clad, had ventured out, found immunity from the elements impossible, and walked along with apparent indifference to the complete drenchings they were exposing themselves to. One of these wayfarers—there were only about half-a-dozen visible—was a European lady, and she with her husband stood in the midst of it all and gazed over the turbulent waters of the harbour, where ships with their anchors down and steam up were rolling and pitching as they rode out the storm.

At the commencement of the typhoon a junk moored westward of the Star Ferry pier was seen to be in distress. Held by two anchors run out from her head, she rolled and pitched terribly, dipping deep into the waves every time the influence of the restraining cable manifested itself. There were seven or eight people on board, including a woman and a little boy, and their loud cries for help showed that they realised their extreme peril even more keenly than the few anxious-eyed Europeans on shore. These could do nothing, for although the distressed boat was only fifty yards or so from the Praya wall, the gale was blowing dead on shore, and so made the throwing of a line on board a physical impossibility. Darkness settled down, and but for the presence on shore of half-a-dozen Chinese in charge of Captain Brown, of the Godowns, and three Europeans, one of them Lieut. McClay, R.A.M.C., and another Mr. B.W. Grey, P.W.D., there was nothing to indicate to the unfortunate occupants of the junk that they were not to be left to their fate without any attempt being made to save them. The Water Police, whose duty might not unreasonably be expected to have lain there, never made an appearance. Possibly their attention was engaged elsewhere, but at the last typhoon something over a week ago their numbers were said to be sufficient to ensure the patrolling of the entire water-front from Tsimshatsui to Yaumati. Paying out all the available chain, the crew of the junk allowed her to get as close as thirty yards to the Praya wall, as near as could be judged in the darkness, but though the three Europeans mentioned did all they possibly could to heave a line aboard, their efforts were utterly futile and had reluctantly to be abandoned. Then the junk people tried to get a line ashore by fastening one to a bamboo which they threw overboard, but if the line came in the direction of the watchers on the Praya the darkness made it impossible for them to see it, and at last, dripping wet from the rain and the waves that frequently washed over them, they were forced to leave the spot. When the typhoon changed direction, the junk, whose occupants now were so still that they all might have been dead, drifted slowly in the direction of the Torpedo Depot, where Gunner White and his men took up the work of attempting to rescue them. The gale had increased considerably, but after six hours' buffeting, the junk, now rolling somewhat heavily from the water she had shipped, still rose and fell gamely to the heavy swell. Gunner White and his plucky bluejackets, some of them dressed just as they were when they scrambled out of bed, stood by from ten o'clock till after midnight, drenched and blinded by the driving rain and spindrift, waiting for the opportunity that should enable them to rescue the objects of their regard. Then the sea moderated, and when it was seen that the

junk would ride the storm in safety, the shivering sailors, leaving one man on watch, hurried back to their quarters for the warm "tot" awaiting them. Later on in the morning the storm-tossed little craft drifted close in to the jetty at the Depot, and her crew, shivering with fear and cold, were safely landed.

THE HARBOUR.

Not since the memorable typhoon of 19th November, 1900, has the harbour presented such a turbulent appearance. The ships lying at their buoys had their anchors all in readiness to be dropped when the typhoon gun sent its significant warning across the waters, and with steam up they rode out the gale magnificently. The only ship at the Godown Company's wharf was the *Maisang*, and her position, though not dangerous, was such as to call for the exercise of unceasing vigilance on the part of her officers. Captain Brown, the head wharfinger of the Godown Company, went down to the wharf after nightfall and saw to the re-mooring of the steamer, which emerged from the storm with safety. The *Chusan*, northward bound, went out at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, but the homeward-bound *Valetta* postponed her departure till a more propitious period and left yesterday about noon. The ferry launches continued running up till five o'clock, when the last one left Hongkong for the Kowloon side. Her departure was the occasion of a scene of wild confusion on the pier, crowds of Chinese struggling to secure a place on the launch. Yesterday morning only two launches were making the journey across, two of the other launches having met with slight accidents. The anchor chain of the *Northern Star* became entangled during the night with the propeller, round which it wound so firmly as to make its unloosing a work of some difficulty; and the *Morning Star* sustained damage through being swept against either a rock or the sea-wall. By the afternoon the propeller of the *Northern Star* had been freed, and she was put on the run, which was thus brought up to its usual strength. Many ships earlier in the day made for shelter, and this course was adopted also by the junks and sampans with which the harbour abounds. A number of steam launches are said to have been lost, but this reports lacks confirmation.

THE PEAK.

Owing to a landslip on the line just at the point where the trams cross, the service was temporarily suspended. The superintendent and the whole staff, with a large gang of coolies, were working throughout yesterday and the whole of last night clearing away the debris, and it is hoped that the cars will be able to resume running this morning. Several large boulders which landed on the line have made the worker's task a very difficult one.

Although most of the houses on the southern side of the Peak were much exposed, they did not suffer any very serious damage from the typhoon. Very few roofs proved wholly impervious to the torrential showers, but leaking roofs have been the rule during this exceptionally wet summer. The damage sustained from the wind was practically trifling. A good many houses lost shutters or portions thereof, and in some cases a window or two was blown in, but in few cases did the foe penetrate beyond the first line of defence. About 9.30 p.m. on Saturday a portion of the retaining wall of "Myrtle Bank," together with a section of the servants' quarters, crashed down on to the Mount Kellett Road. Probably somewhere about the same time a mass of water having collected on Mr. R. C. Wilcox's croquet-ground, above Stewart Terrace, and the drain having become choked, the boundary wall at the east end gave way and a mass of earth and stone was precipitated on to the path below and a quantity of the debris carried down into the rear of the servants' quarters in Stewart Terrace. Happily no one was injured. A large stone roller close to the wall where it was carried away was fortunately caught in the branches of a small tree and thus saved from being carried with the falling mass. One of the Cameron Villas sustained damage to the verandah, and there was some breakage of glass on the verandahs of 6 and 7, Des Vaux Villas. The Peak Club matshed was carried away almost bodily by the wind,

leaving the furniture exposed to the elements. At "The Eyrie" one of the verandahs was unroofed, and several large panes of plate glass were smashed. A number of tiles were blown from the roof of Mt. Gough Station, and a landslip occurred at the back of "St. Andrews," the residence of Hon. G. W. F. Playfair, on Barker Road. The telegraph lines suffered a good deal, and the lines were broken in many places.

No serious accident is reported from the Magazine Gap district, but owing to the fall of the retaining wall of the tennis-court at "Tusculum" the whole of the road was blocked. On other roads small landslips were also the cause of much hindrance to passenger traffic. — *Daily Press*, 4th August.

LATER DETAILS.

Very little remains to be added to the account which we published on the 4th inst. of Saturday's typhoon. Six bodies have been recovered from the ruins of the collapsed house in Wanchai Road, and five were still missing yesterday.

From Samshui comes the news that part of the harbour office there collapsed, without, however, causing injury to any one. At Cheungchauwan the steam-launch *Shui On* was sunk and another steam-launch, the *Fuk On*, driven ashore. The crew in each instance escaped.

Over thirty junks have been driven ashore in the neighbourhood of Yaumati, and nine people are reported to be missing. On the Taiipo Road two landslips occurred, and at the Cosmopolitan Docks the sheer-legs were blown down. One fell across the deck of the steamer *Marie Jensen*, fortunately without injury to any person.

At Mongkok the Praya wall was washed away for a distance of two hundred yards, as was also part of that at Fuk Tsun Heung. The steam-launches *Douglas* and *Wo Lee* were sunk near the Hunghom ferry wharf, and the Hongkong Hotel launch was driven ashore at the Hunghom Docks. The crews were rescued. A little Chinese girl of three was drowned by the swamping at Hunghom of house-boat No. 2021. The *Yau Lee* trading junk was also sunk, no lives, however, being lost. The only other accident reported from Hunghom was the collapsing of two cook-houses, which was unattended by casualties.

On Sunday night at eight o'clock a cook-house at 37, Gough Street, in the city, came down with a run, after having withstood the entire gale on Saturday. One woman is reported to have been buried.

Three coolies were killed by the embankment which collapsed on Saturday evening and engulfed part of the servants' quarters of "The Pines," the residence of Mr. T. P. Cochrane, of the Chartered Bank. One body is still missing, and was being searched for yesterday morning. It has now probably been recovered.

Several landslips occurred in the Shaukiwan district near Quarry Bay, and in one, which took place at Chat Tze Mui and precipitated itself upon a matshed, a Chinese woman and her son, aged twelve, were buried among the ruins and killed. The bodies were unearthed some time later. Many matsheds were blown down in this district, but no other fatalities have been recorded. The launch *Heron* sank off Shaukiwan Road, the crew escaping in time.

At Cheung Chau Island, where the typhoon appears to have manifested itself with great severity, ten houses were completely destroyed and a number of others damaged, happily without loss of life.

Two other deaths took place in the killing of a Chinaman by the collapse of a matshed at the Naval Hospital extension and the drowning of another in the shelter at Causeway Bay; the latter accidentally fell off his boat and sank before help could be extended to him.

Some houses in course of erection on Pokfulam Road were blown down, nobody being hurt. Bonham Road has been very much damaged by landslips, and one which occurred in Belchers Street blocked the entire thoroughfare.

Beyond the interruption of telephonic communication with Stanley and Aberdeen, both districts have been fortunate to escape the violence of the gale.

About 2 p.m. on Sunday, the 3rd inst., West River steamer *Chung Kong*, of the Kwong Wan Steamboat Company, was approaching Li Tin Island when these on board observed

two Chinamen clinging to some wreckage in the water. The native skipper of the vessel had a boat lowered, and the two men, much exhausted, were picked up. They stated that they were the only survivors of a crew of eleven which left Macao in a junk on the previous day and had been caught in the typhoon and sunk.

At about the same time and on the same day, when also approaching Lin Tin Island, the Chinese-manned West River steamer *Saiking*, belonging to the Wo On Steamboat Company, rescued the entire crew of nine of a junk which was fast sinking from the effects of the buffeting received in the typhoon.

All the bodies buried in the ruins of the collapsed house at 45, Praya East, Wanchai, twelve in number, have been recovered.

A great part of the roof of the workshop attached to the Hongkong Ironworks at Shankiwan was blown down, but business was not interrupted. The steam launch *Fawn* was sunk in three or four fathoms of water in Causeway Bay, and the new matshed opposite the Bay View Hotel was destroyed; the hotel itself escaped damage.

THE TRIP OF THE S.S. "HEUNGSHAN."

The passengers of the s.s. *Heungshan*, which left Hongkong on the 2nd inst. for Macao, had a very unpleasant experience. The advent of the typhoon was already felt when the steamer left the wharf at 2 p.m., and Captain Clarke had persuaded several lady passengers who had come on board to postpone their trip and remain behind. There was a very large number of passengers, owing to the holiday on the Monday, and about 400 Chinese below. The captain took the inner course and went as far as The Brothers, where he deemed it expedient to anchor owing to the mist and the rapid indications that the typhoon was approaching and its centre likely to be in close proximity. A better anchorage could not have been found, and when night approached the caution of the captain was justified. There was a tremendous force of wind and a deluge of rain which lasted for some hours, and steam was kept up all night. The passengers had for the most part a wretched time, although the commander and officers did their best to make things as comfortable as possible, but their efforts were of course confined to seeing to the safety of the steamer. There were several ladies on board amongst the first-class passengers and these were accommodated in the ladies' cabins. The men had to turn in on the settees and chairs whilst in the second-class the ladies had to sleep where they sat. The agent of the company should really not have allowed the ship to leave, but having left everyone had to make the best of it. The steward, anticipating some delay, had laid in a stock of provisions sufficient for dinner on the Saturday and a plain breakfast on the Sunday, but here the commissariat failed, excepting in the matter of liquid refreshments, in which a big business was done. A most trying night was experienced and on the Sunday morning Captain Clarke steamed out from the shelter of the isles but speedily had to return, as the heavy seas which struck the vessel threatened to smash in the large square ports. After noon the weather sufficiently moderated for the captain to make another attempt, which was successful and after a rough passage Macao was safely reached to the relief of everyone at 3 p.m.

THE TYPHOON AT MACAO.

Although Macao was fortunate in not sustaining any severe damage from the typhoon yet there were ample evidences that a severe storm had been experienced. The heavy rain played havoc with the roads and there were numerous landslips. Building operations suffered, scaffoldings being blown down, but no casualties were reported. The ancient city certainly looked and smelt cleaner after the thorough cleansing which the continuous heavy rain effected.

The French Admiral Beaumont who has just been disgraced for introducing a lady not his wife into the official gallery on the 14th ult., was formerly in command of the French Asiatic squadron. He was Contre-Amiral on the French cruiser *Bayard*, when she was flagship of the China station some five years ago.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

Two days during the past week have been entirely free from plague. The year's figures on Friday were:—531 cases (6 Europeans, 506 Chinese, 19 other Asiatics).

During the week ending 2nd inst., the cases of communicable disease were:—Plague 31 (2 Europeans, 29 Chinese), with 34 deaths; cholera 6 (Chinese), with 6 deaths; enteric fever 1 (European case at the Peak); puerperal fever 1 (Chinese), with 1 death.

THE NEW TREATY.

At a special general meeting of the China Association at Shanghai, on the 31st ult., Mr. Dudgeon addressed the members on the subject of the new Commercial Treaty. After some introductory remarks, Mr. Dudgeon said:—

I will give you the substance of the Articles of the Treaty one by one. The first seven articles of the Treaty do not, I think, raise any contentious points, and will, I think, be accepted as all tending to the betterment of commercial conditions in China.

The first Article provides for the protection of Trade Marks, the Chinese Government undertaking to afford protection to British trade marks against infringement, imitation, or colourable imitation by Chinese subjects.

By the second Article the Chinese Government agrees to give increased facilities at the open ports for landing and for reporting merchandise in bond, and the Article further provides that bonding facilities shall be extended to any warehouse when it has been established to the satisfaction of the Customs' Authorities that such warehouse affords the necessary security to the revenue.

By the third Article, China undertakes to remove present obstructions to navigation in the Canton River, and to improve accommodation for shipping in the harbour of Canton; the work to be carried out by the Imperial Maritime Customs and to be defrayed by a tax on goods, British and native alike. In the same Article China admits the desirability of improving the navigability of the Yangtze between Ichang and Chungking, but sees difficulty of carrying out improvement works for lack of funds; she agrees therefore that, subject to the approval of the Imperial Maritime Customs, steamship owners shall be at liberty to erect such works as they please for haulage purposes. China also engages to favourably consider any practical scheme that may be laid before her for improving the waterway and assisting navigation.

The fourth Article provides that there shall be no differential treatment in the matter of duty of goods carried by junk as against steam-borne goods, a matter which has long been a source of complaint, particularly in the south.

The fifth Article deals with the question of drawbacks, and provides that such shall be issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs within three weeks of the presentation to the Customs of the papers entitling the applicant to receive such drawback certificates. The certificates are to be valid tender in payment of duties upon goods imported or exported, or are convertible into cash at the office of issue.

Under the sixth Article, China undertakes to take the necessary steps to provide for a uniform national currency which shall be legal tender in payment of all duties, taxes, and other obligations.

Article seven settles the vexed question of the liability of Chinese shareholders in British joint-stock companies, and provides that "Chinese subjects who have or may become shareholders in any British joint-stock company shall be held to have accepted, by the very act of becoming shareholders, the Charter of Incorporation or Memorandum and Articles of such company, and regulations framed thereunder as interpreted by British Courts, and that Chinese Courts shall enforce compliance therewith by such Chinese shareholders."

And now, gentlemen, I come to Article eight, which is the crux of the Treaty, but I am, for the moment, going to pass it over, and outline the remaining Articles.

Article nine deals with the mining question, and provides that China will "with all expedition and earnestness go into the whole question of Mining Rules" and that she will "re-cast her present Mining Rules in such a way as,

while promoting the interests of Chinese subjects, and not injuring in any way the sovereign rights of China, shall offer no impediment to the attracting of foreign capital."

Article ten deals with the important question of Inland Navigation, and provides for drastic amendment of the existing rules. I do not, however, feel competent to deal with the full terms of this article to-day, as there still remain certain questions to be settled in connection with the rules.

The eleventh Article deals with the question of Treaty Port Areas, and provides that "if so desired by either the Chinese or British Governments, a local joint committee shall be appointed to define, in accordance with local conditions and treaty provisions, the limits of the open ports, so that disputes may be avoided."

Article twelve expresses a desire on the part of China to reform her judicial system so as to bring it into accord with that of Western nations; Great Britain agrees to give every assistance in such reform, and "when she is satisfied that the state of the Chinese laws, the arrangements for their administration, and other considerations warrant her in doing so," she will take into consideration the question of the abolition of extraterritoriality.

Article thirteen contains a promise on the part of Great Britain to join any joint Commission that may be appointed to investigate the missionary question, with the purpose of, if possible, devising means for securing permanent peace between converts and non-converts. I am pleased with the term "if possible." I may say that these last two Articles are embodied in the Treaty at Chinese instance.

There remains one other Article relative to the movement of rice and grain, a matter which has ever been a source of trouble since the Treaty of 1858. As, however, the terms of this Article have only just been finally agreed on, and as I have not yet got a copy of the full Text, I prefer not to deal with the matter to-day.

I now go back to Article eight, the Article which, as I have said, is the whole crux of the Treaty, and in my faulty expounding of it I must beg your very careful attention. Gentlemen, it can be no secret to you, after our meetings earlier in this year, at which was propounded a scheme for *tekin* abolition, that the instructions of the British Government were aimed at the abolition of this curse upon Chinese Trade. Our first effort failed—it was rejected by the Chinese, it was rejected by Manchester, and it met with semi-rejection by this Branch of the Association; I say semi-rejection because, as you remember, the voting was almost even. I am now not sorry that it was rejected, because such rejection led the Commission on to fresh effort on extended lines of study of this most intricate question, and during the three months and a half that have elapsed since our meeting on the 15th April, the Commission has been able to evolve a scheme which has received the support of our merchants at home, of the Chinese Government, and I trust that it will meet with your approval also. That it can meet with full approval in all quarters I know is impossible; that it will work with smoothness from the outset I also know is impossible, but what I would repeat to you is what I said in my speech of 15th April, namely, that it is the business of an important and representative Association such as this to place the general interests before those of the individual.

I will now take up the Article. It begins with a preamble in which the Chinese Government recognises that the "system of levying *tekin* and other dues on goods at the place of production, in transit, and at destination, impedes the free circulation of commodities and injures the interests of trade," and that therefore they undertake to discard completely those means of revenue with certain limitations. I wish you to remember the point of limitations, a point which will be explained later. The preamble goes on to state that the British Government, in return, consent to allow a surtax in excess of the Treaty Tariff rates, to be imposed on goods imported and on Chinese produce destined for export abroad or coastwise. It is next stipulated that after the removal of the *tekin* barriers and other stations for taxing goods in transit, no attempt shall be made to revive them in any form or under any pretext whatsoever; that in no case shall the surtax on foreign imports exceed the equivalent of one and a half times the import duty; and that the

payment of import duty and surtax shall secure for foreign imports, in whose hands they may be, and whether in original packages or otherwise, complete immunity from all other taxation, examination or delay; further the total amount of taxation leviable on native produce or export abroad shall, under no circumstances, exceed 7½ per cent. *ad valorem*. The preamble concludes that "keeping these fundamental principles steadily in view, the High Contracting Parties have agreed upon the following methods of procedure," as given in the 16 sections which I will now endeavour to explain.

Section 1 provides for the permanent abolition of all barriers of whatever kind collecting *lekin* and such like dues or duties on all roads, railways and waterways in the eighteen provinces of China and the three Eastern provinces (namely the provinces of Manchuria). This provision does not apply to the native custom houses at present in existence on the seaboard or waterways, at the Treaty Ports, on land routes and on the land frontiers of China. As to these custom houses I shall have more to say later on.

Section 2 provides that in addition to the import duty as laid down in the Protocol of September, 1901, foreign imports shall pay a special surtax equivalent to 1½ times such duty in compensation for the abolition of *lekin* and all other forms of taxation, but that this provision does not impair the right of China to tax salt, native opium, and native produce as provided for in sections which follow. It is further stipulated that goods entering China across the frontiers shall pay the same surtax as seaborne goods.

The 3rd section provides that all native custom houses now existing, whether at the Treaty Ports, on the seaboard, on rivers, inland waterways, land routes or land portions, as enumerated in the Regulations of the Boards of Revenue and Works, and the Dynastic Institutes, may remain, a list of them to be furnished, with their location, to the British Government. I should mention that the inland custom houses which are allowed to remain are the old custom houses which date their existence long before the days of *lekin*, they are few in number and for the most part are inter-provincial. The section goes on to give China liberty to establish native customs offices wherever there are offices of the Imperial Maritime Customs, as well as at any points either on the seaboard or land frontiers.

Permission is also given China to change the location of custom houses in the interior as circumstances of trade seem to require, but any change of location must be communicated to the British Government, and the original number of custom houses may not be exceeded.

The next clause in this section provides that goods carried by junks or sailing vessels trading to or from open ports shall not pay lower dues than the combined duties and surtax on similar cargo carried by steamers.

We then come to the treatment of native produce, it being provided that when such produce is transferred from one place to another in the interior, it shall, on arrival at the first custom house after leaving place of production, pay duty equivalent to the export surtax—that is to say a half export duty. On payment of this duty the produce will receive a certificate describing the goods and their intended destination; this certificate shall be valid for one year, and shall free the goods from all taxation, examination, delay, or stoppage at any other native custom house passed *en route*. If the produce is taken to a place not in the Foreign Settlements or Concessions of an open port, for local use, it becomes liable to the consumption tax as laid down later. If the produce is shipped from an open port the certificate is to be accepted by the custom house in lieu of the export surtax. The last clause of this Section prohibits the taxation of junks, or carts, beyond a small and reasonable charge to be paid at a fixed annual rate; this however does not exclude the right to levy tonnage or port dues on junks.

Section 4 provides that the present foreign opium duty or *lekin*, the latter to be known as a surtax in lieu of *lekin*, shall remain as at present.

Section 5 deals with native opium, and begins with a declaration that the British Government have no intention whatever of interfering with China's right to tax her opium, but that in the

arrangements for levying such taxation China must not subject other goods to taxation, delay, or stoppage.

China is to be left free to retain at important points on the boundary of each province offices for collecting duty on native opium, where duties or contributions leviable shall be paid in one lump sum, which payment shall cover taxation of all kinds within that province, each cake of opium being stamped as evidence of such duty payment. Excise officers and police may be employed in connection with these offices, but no barriers or other obstructions are to be erected, and the excise officers or police are not to stop or molest any other kind of goods. A list of these opium offices is to be made and presented to the British Government for record.

Section 6 deals with the taxation upon salt and begins by declaring that *lekin* on salt is abolished, the amount of such *lekin* and other taxes and contributions being added to the salt duty, which is to be collected at place of production, or at the first station after entering the province of consumption.

China has liberty to establish salt reporting offices at which boats conveying salt which is being moved under salt passes or certificates may be required to stop for purposes of examination and to have their certificates *vised*, but at such offices no *lekin* or Transit Taxation shall be levied, and no barriers or obstructions of any kind shall be erected.

Section 7 is an important one, and deals with the Export Tariff. It begins by giving to the Chinese Government permission to recast the Foreign Exports Tariff with specific duties as far as possible, on a scale not exceeding 5 per cent *ad valorem*, but existing duties are not to be raised until at least six months' notice has been given. In cases where existing export duties are above 5 per cent, they are to be reduced to not more than that rate.

An exception is made in the case of silk, upon which no export surtax is to be levied, and no tax is to be collected at native custom houses which cocoons or silk may pass, but China is to be at liberty to charge an export duty on a specified basis equivalent to not more than 5 per cent *ad valorem*. I may mention here that a great fight was made to get silk in at a lower duty, but all attempts were steadily combated by the Chinese Commissioners; they pointed out that with existing *lotishui*, now to be abolished, a 5 per cent. duty was less than silk was at present paying, and were quite regardless of the argument that it was China's interest to lower the export duty on silk, in face of Japanese competition. As a matter of fact I believe that a 5 per cent. duty is lower than what is at present paid, the report drawn up by the silk merchants in 1896 putting the total taxation as high as Tls. 49 per picul, and in the revision of that report made the other day it is stated that, since 1896, the taxation has in no way been modified, but rather increased.

The last clause of Section 7 deals with the surtax on export duty, which is declared to be one-half of the duty payable on goods exported either to foreign countries or coastwise.

Section 8 deals with the consumptive tax. It begins by reciting that the abolition of *lekin* and the abandonment by China of all kinds of internal taxation on foreign imports and exports will diminish the revenue materially, and that while the surtax on foreign imports and exports and on coastwise exports is intended to compensate in a measure for this loss in revenue, there will remain the loss of *lekin* on internal trade; it is therefore agreed China shall be at liberty to impose a consumptive tax on articles of Chinese origin not intended for export.

This tax is to be levied only at places of consumption, and not while goods are in transit, and the Chinese Government solemnly undertake that the arrangement which they may make for this collection shall in no way interfere with foreign goods, or native goods for export. The fact of goods being of foreign origin shall of itself free them from all taxation, delay or stoppage, after once having passed the custom house.

The point was raised that in the case of certain merchandise there might be difficulty as to its origin; to meet this the following clause was inserted: "Foreign goods which bear a similarity to native goods shall be furnished by the custom house, if required by the owner, with a protective certificate for each package on payment

of import duty and surtax, to prevent the risk of any dispute in the interior."

The section goes on to state that native goods brought by junks to the open ports, if intended for local consumption, irrespective of the nationality of the owner of the goods, shall be reported at the native custom house only, where the consumptive tax may be levied.

As to the amount of the consumptive duty, this may be fixed by China, and may vary according to the nature of the merchandise concerned, that is to say, according as the articles are necessities of life or luxuries; it is, however, to be levied at a uniform rate on goods of the same description, no matter whether carried by junk, sailing vessel or steamer. The consumptive tax is not to be levied within foreign settlements or concessions.

Section 9, I approach with feelings of the least satisfaction in connection with the Treaty. It deals with the question of excise on native-made goods of local manufacture, and in its provisions you will observe the exercise of a power beyond the means of Shanghai to deal with. I am further constrained to say that in the negotiation of this Section I was surprised to find the Chinese Commissioners, who in the persons of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Sheng Kung-pao are largely interested in the development of China's manufactures, ranging on the side of the Powers at home, and proving themselves utterly disregarding of the possibilities attendant upon the development of native industries. That the excise on native manufactures has not been fixed at the full equivalent of the import duty and surtax is not the fault either of Manchester, Bombay, or China; this is not the occasion for me to give my individual views on the subject, I am merely engaged in explaining the Treaty, and will proceed with the Section.

The first clause of the Section provides that an excise equivalent to double the import duty as laid down in the Protocol of 1901 is to be charged on all machine-made yarn and cloth manufactured in China, whether by Chinese at the treaty ports or by Chinese anywhere in China. Chinese raw cotton used in the mills is to receive a drawback of all duties, including consumptive tax, paid upon it. Raw cotton imported for use in the mills is to receive a drawback for the import duty paid, and for two-thirds of the surtax thereon. (This in effect means a premium upon using Chinese cotton.) Excise is to be collected through the Imperial Maritime Customs, and after payment the yarn and cloth are to be free from all further taxation whatsoever. The same principle and procedure is to be applied to all other products of foreign type turned out by machinery whether by foreigners or Chinese.

Section 10 provides for the general supervision of native Customs affairs, the consumption tax, and the salt and native opium taxes by officers of the Imperial Maritime Customs Foreign Staff. This you will probably accept as a valuable safeguard.

Section 11 deals with the question of the investigation of abuses, such investigation to be promptly made by an officer of the Chinese Government of proper rank, a British officer and an officer of the Imperial Maritime Customs. If the complaint is found to be well-founded compensation is to be paid from the surtax funds; the high provincial officials are held responsible that the officer guilty of the illegal action shall be severely punished and removed from his post. If the complaint is found to be unfounded the complainant shall be held responsible for the expenses of the investigation.

Under Section 12 the following ports are opened under the same conditions as the ports opened by the Treaties of Tientsin and Nanking, viz:—

Changsha	in Hunan,
Wanhsien	" Szechuen,
Nganking	" Anhwei,
Weichow	" Kwangtung,
Kong-moon	" "

Wanhsien is situated at the top of the rapids, and the reason for claiming it as one open port was that the goods hauled up through the rapids might be transferred to steamers running beyond. Weichow is on the West River east of Canton.

Foreigners residing at open ports are not entitled to establish municipalities and police of their own except with the consent of the Chinese authorities.

Section 13 provides that, subject to the Section which follows, the arrangements provided for in this Article are to come into force on 1st January, 1904, by which date all *lekin* barriers are to be removed, and the officials employed in the collection of taxes and dues prohibited by the Treaty removed from their posts.

Section 14 states that the condition on which the Chinese Government enters into the present engagement is that all the Powers entitled to the favoured nation treatment enter into the same engagements as Great Britain with regard to the obligation imposed by this article on His Britannic Majesty's Government. On the other hand the conditions on which His Majesty's Government enter into the present engagements are:—

(1) That all Powers who now, or may hereafter become entitled to most favoured nation treatment in China enter into the same engagements and

(2) That their assent is neither directly or indirectly made dependent on the granting by China of any political concession, or of any exclusive commercial concession.

Section 15 provides that the date of this article becoming effective may be postponed should the Powers entitled to most favoured nation treatment in China have failed to agree to enter into the engagements undertaken by Great Britain by 1st January, 1904. And section 16 provides for the promulgation of an Imperial Edict, published in due form on yellow paper, setting forth the abolition of all *lekin* taxation, *lekin*-barriers and all descriptions of internal taxation on goods, except as provided for in this Article. The Edict shall also state that the Provincial High Officials are responsible that any official disregarding the letter or spirit of its injunction shall be severely punished and removed from his post.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG IN 1901.

The medical report of Dr. J. M. Atinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, on the health and sanitary condition of Hongkong in 1901, is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Colony for 1901 was 300,660. There were 1,088 births and 7,082 deaths, of the latter 1,562 were from plague. The birth-rate was 3.6 per 1,000 as against 3.3 per 1,000 in 1900. The death-rate was 23.5 per 1,000 as compared with 23.9 in 1900. Excluding the deaths from plague the death-rate would have been 19.03 per 1,000. The following figures will show the comparison of the death-rate in the Chinese and non-Chinese during the past two years:—

	1900.	1901.
Non-Chinese, ...	20.4 per 1,000	21.5 per 1,000
Chinese, ...	24.1 " "	23.77 " "

PREVALENCE OF SICKNESSES IN DIFFERENT SEASONS, ETC.

Small-pox.—This disease was much more prevalent than in 1900, 91 cases being notified during the year as against 27 in 1900; most of these cases occurred in the early part of the year, 42 being reported in March and 23 in April.

Cholera.—Seventeen cases were imported from Singapore on board the s.s. *Cheung Chee* in the month of February.

Plague.—This disease was again epidemic during the year. In all 1,651 cases of plague were notified, with 1,562 deaths. The following table gives the number of cases reported in each month of the years 1900 and 1901:—

	1900.	1901.
January, ...	8	7
February, ...	8	14
March, ...	5	54
April, ...	94	10
May, ...	326	701
June, ...	325	151
July, ...	209	109
August, ...	80	27
September, ...	16	14
October, ...	12	1
November, ...	2	1
December, ...	2	2
	1,087	1,651

This is the fourth year in succession that this disease has been epidemic in the Colony. More Europeans were attacked last year than is generally the case, the number being 30, although in 1898, 26 were attacked. Most of them were living on the Queen's Road level and were hence more evident to the European community. Many of these cases were associated with the finding of rats in the dwellings of those attacked, but whether these rats were themselves the subject of plague was not ascertained. During the first six months of 1901, 48,000 rats were destroyed. As is usually the case, a large number of the Chinese were found lying in the streets or boats in the harbour, in 1902 [this seems to be an error for 1901.—Ed. D.P.] 308 such cases occurred. These, to a great extent, account for the annual recurrence of this disease, as of necessity the houses from which they come are not disinfected. As long as this deposition of dead bodies in the streets occurs, so long will plague continue in our midst. To try to some extent to prevent the yearly onset of the disease, in 1902 in the winter months a systematic cleansing and disinfection of every Chinese house in the City was instituted. This was commenced in November and continued during following four months, the magnitude of the operations undertaken will be understood when I state that over 8,000 Chinese houses were thus dealt with in Hongkong, and in addition to this the Chinese houses in Kowloon were cleansed and disinfected.

Enteric Fever.—There were 75 cases as compared with 85 in the previous year. More Europeans were, however, attacked by the disease than in the previous year, the number being 47 as compared with 34 in 1900. Twenty-two of these cases were, however, imported.

Malarial Fevers.—Extensive operations have been undertaken during the year in the way of removal of undergrowth, training of nullahs and draining of stagnant pools of water with the object of diminishing the number of mosquitoes. As far as we can judge by statistics these appear to have been successful, the total number of deaths amongst the Chinese from malarial fever being returned as 541 in 1901, as compared with 887 in 1900.

Beri-beri.—There were 377 deaths from beri-beri as compared with 361 in 1890.

RELATIVE MORTALITY IN DIFFERENT SEASONS.

The months of May and June were the most fatal; excluding plague and small-pox, October, September, and December were the most fatal months.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION.

The presence of plague in an epidemic form for the fourth year in succession shows that more radical measures must be taken to improve the sanitary state of the Colony. With this object in view a cleansing and disinfection of all the Chinese houses in Victoria and Kowloon was commenced in November and was systematically carried through during the four following months. Government also decided to obtain from England the services of two experts in sanitation. Professor Simpson, M.D., F.R.C.P., and Mr. Osbert Chadwick, M.B.C.E., C.M.G., were appointed to advise as to what further steps should be taken to improve the sanitary condition of the Colony. During the year the various existing Public Health Ordinances were consolidated in Ordinance No. 13 of 1901. Ordinance No. 30 of 1901 was passed with a view to limiting the erection of new buildings to a greater height than one and a half times the width of the street on which they front unless the building at present occupying such site exceeds that height, in which case the new building may be carried up as high as the existing one so long as the scale contained in Ordinance No. 15 of 1894 is not exceeded. It also provides that no existing building which does not at present exceed in height one and a half times the width of the street on which it fronts shall be so raised as to exceed that limit of height. It is evident that resumption of insanitary buildings and of areas will be necessary before there can be much improvement in many of the crowded parts of the Colony. More public latrines and urinals are also needed.

VACCINATIONS.

The following vaccinations were performed during the year:—Government Civil Hospital, 644; Victoria Goal, 2,880; Alice Memorial Hospital, 771; Tung Wah, 1,952 (Victoria 1,826, Aberdeen 46, Stanley 24, Shauiwan 25, Hung-hom 7, Yaumati 24); total 6,247.

MARCUS ISLAND.

The Japanese cruiser *Kasaki*, as we have already stated, left Yokosuka on the 23rd ult. for Marcus Island, carrying Mr. Ishii, a Secretary in the Foreign Office. It appears, according to Japanese papers, that in consequence of the telegram relating to the grant of a title to Marcus Island by the United States to Captain Rosehill, and of an expedition having been organised to proceed from the States to the island, the Japanese Government has made certain representations to the United States Minister in Tokyo. A report having been received that the United States expedition, which was temporarily stopped at San Francisco, has now left America, Mr. Ishii has been ordered to the island to explain the situation to the members of that expedition in order to avert any misunderstanding between the two countries. It is expected that the *Kasaki* will arrive before the U.S. expedition can reach the spot.

The above is news published by Japanese papers, the *Kobe Chronicle* remarks, and appears somewhat remarkable. It seems barely credible that the U.S. expedition should have been allowed to start while the Japanese and American Governments were engaged in discussing the question. Probably the truth is that the Japanese cruiser has been sent to Marcus Island in order to avert any possible misunderstanding arising from the arrival at the island of any isolated members of the American expedition who may be on the way, not that the expedition has actually started.

The *Asahi* has an interesting article on Marcus Island. It was discovered, according to the *Asahi*, by an American vessel in 1814, and since then has appeared on the maps of all countries as a possession of Spain. [This is not quite correct, as the Century Dictionary chart gives it as a possession of the United States.] It was afterwards abandoned, and up to recently has been uninhabited. Marcus Island is situated in 24 degrees 14 min. S. North latitude, and 154 degrees East longitude, being thus within the Japanese boundary specified in the declaration relating to the boundary of the dominions of Japan and Spain, signed on behalf of the two countries after the Japan-China War. In 1897 the Japanese Government formally annexed the island to Tokyo-fu, placing it under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Bonin Islands, and published the fact in the *Official Gazette* the same year. Prior to this, in December 1896, one Mizutani Shiuroku, living in Tsukiji, Tokyo, while on a voyage to the South Seas, was driven by a gale on the island, and on returning home Mizutani applied to the Government for the lease of the islands. A lease of ten years was accordingly granted to him in December, 1897. Marcus Island is some 660 nautical miles south-east of the Bonin Islands, to the south of Torijima (Bird Island) and the name of Minami Torijima (South Bird Island) is given to it. It is 14 *cho* (a little less than a mile) from North to South, and 18 *cho*, a little over a mile, from East to West having an area of 1,867,905 *tsuba*. The island consists of coral reef covered with sand and is almost entirely level, the highest part rising to no greater elevation than sixty feet. Shrubs and trees grow thickly upon it and the temperature is mild, ranging from 69 deg. to 90 deg. Fahrenheit. Fresh water is scarce, but the supply of fuel and vegetables is plentiful. Communication with Japan is made three times a year—in February, June, and October—by the schooner *Motoya Maru*. The principal produce is *aho* birds and *maguro* fish, the annual catch of these being valued at about 15,000 yen and requiring the labour of about sixty coolies, who are usually hired from the Bonin and Hachijo Islands; the season during which the birds are caught being from October to January. When Mizutani first landed on the island, it was uninhabited and covered by birds; to-day the permanent

population is sixteen, including Mizutani, the lessee.

Under these circumstances, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, it seems clear that the United States has lost any right it may at any time have had to be considered the possessor of the island.

HONGKONG CORONATION CONTINGENT.

MEMBERS GRANTED PAY.

Writing from London on the 4th ult., our correspondent with the Hongkong Volunteer Contingent says:—

We arrived at Liverpool at 8 a.m. on 23rd June, disembarked and entrained on a special at 10 a.m. None of the contingent baggage was opened by the customs, which was very nice for us all. There was an awful muddle at first with the baggage. It got mixed up with others in the customs sheds, and it was some time before things could be got together. We arrived at Wood Green Station at 2 p.m. and headed by the Highland Light Infantry band, marched into Alexandra Palace. They did not seem prepared for us; there must have been some bungle somewhere. No one knew there were any white troops, and consequently the Volunteers are encamped with the black folk. The H.K.V.C. have four large tents, and are comfortable. The meals are served in the Palace, and the food is good. Officers have a bell tent each and mess in the Palace, where there is a special officers' mess, dining-room and sitting-room. It is very nice here in fine weather, but we have had a couple of rainy days and it has been awful—mud, mud, mud!

Crowds of people come to see the soldiers. There are about 2,000 Colonials here from all parts of the world. It is a wonderful sight to see the various kinds of colours both in uniforms and skins. Capt. Forbes, "D" Co., and Lt. Nicholson, "A" Co., visited us the evening we arrived.

The following joined us here:—Col. Sergt. Major Rodger, "C" Co., Guns. F. R. Smith, "A" Co., Black, "A" Co., Russel, "C" Co., Pte. Watson, "D" Co. Here again the Head-quarter Office were not advised that these men were to join us here, though I believe full instructions were sent from Hongkong.

On Tuesday, 24th June, the Contingent was medically examined. There was a big parade of the Colonials in the Palace Grounds. We were inspected by Lord Roberts and the Duke of Connaught. Lord Roberts said to one of his staff in reference to the H.K.V.C.—"Very nicely turned out, I must say." The drilling which the men have been put through has smartened them up a great deal.

On the 25th June we had a long route march lasting about two and a half hours. We then lined up in the Palace Grounds as a sort of rehearsal for the Coronation. We had been 41 days on the voyage and mostly wearing soft shoes, so most of the men had their feet blistered; mine were pretty bad. It was a hot day, but the H.K.V.C. marched very well. Not a man fell out, while there were several from other contingents. On the 26th June we had another route march, but it was a very short one, thank goodness!

The King's illness has upset everything. There have been several entertainments of various kinds which our men have attended. Things have been quiet in camp, bar, of course, the crowds of people who come to gaze upon the black faces, etc.

On the 30th June all our camp was taken to visit the fleet at Spithead. We went off in three detachments in special trains to Southampton. We steamed round in the *Bavarian*, Allan Line, chartered by the Government as a transport. Meals were served on board free. We were up at 4 a.m. and returned about 10.30 p.m. It was fine sight; lots of cheering.

On the 1st July the Colonials were received at the Horse Guards by the Queen. She was looking very well, though sad. It was a very brilliant scene. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Duke of Connaught, several others of the Royal Family, and a lot of distinguished visitors. They all passed down the lines inspecting the troops. All the Royalties, etc., then formed up at the saluting base where the Queen took up her stand by the flag. The troops marched past her in column of route. There were crowds of spectators. Sir Henry Irving gave

a reception at the Lyceum to the Colonial officers.

The men are mostly away on leave. General leave has been granted subject to recall. Sir Henry Blake paid us a visit and has granted us the same terms of pay which the Ceylon and the Straits men are receiving. Various rates for different ranks, full pay while on shore in England, and half pay while on board ship, both on the voyage here and back. We have drawn pay up to the 31st June. Everything was fixed up by Sir Henry at the Colonial Office. It is very nice indeed to get this cash, as things are not cheap here.

I have been very busy with "pidgin." Major Chapman is hard worked. There are so many, many details and of course lots of red tape. You must excuse such a poor account, but since the Coronation has been put off things are not very lively. I cannot keep track of all the Sunday school treats our men have been taking part in, but there are several, and they seem to be having a very good time.

STRIKE OF CIGAR OPERATIVES IN MANILA.

The latest news to hand from Manila regarding the strike of the Filipino operatives in the cigar-factories of Manila is to the effect that though the majority of the operatives wanted to return to work, there was a small section amongst them who wished to prolong the struggle, in the hope of getting their demand for an increase in their wages granted by the Manufacturers' Union. It was rumoured that the Labour Union was distributing \$5 per week to each operative on strike, but it was supposed either that this was a game of brag and bluster on the part of some of the Filipino leaders or that there were only a very few recipients of this bounty, as it is well known that the Labour Union has not so much funds as to enable it to support thousands of operatives in this way; and as a great portion of them are already anxious to return to work at the old scale of wages this supposition is considered to be true. The agreement entered into by each of the members of the Manufacturers' Union, to the effect that if one factory had to close on account of the strike of its operatives, all the rest should close also, was to have terminated on the 31st of July, and it was believed by some of the strikers that this agreement would not be renewed after this date; they therefore decided to prolong the struggle till that date, and await the result of the conference that was to be held by the Manufacturers' Union to consider what further steps should be taken to cope with the strikers. As there is no disposition on the part of the factories to yield, and as the majority of them were in favour of renewing the agreement, it was expected that the work would be resumed in the first week of August, if not by all the operatives, at least by that portion of them who are already clamouring to return to work. —*Daily Press*, 6th August.

According to later advices received from Manila by the s.s. *Rosetta Maru*, the conference of the Manufacturers' Union took place on the 31st July, when it was resolved unanimously to stick to the original agreement entered into to resist the demand made by the cigar operatives for a further increase of 50 per cent. in their wages. It transpired during the meeting that a good majority of those operatives were anxious to return to work at the old wages, but that they were threatened with violence by their recalcitrant brethren and their "patriotic" leaders and they were therefore afraid to resume work. The leaders of the strikers were openly warned that any further prolongation of the struggle will ultimately prove ruinous to the cigar industry of the country, as one or two of the proprietors were already considering the feasibility of removing their factories to a suitable locality in Spain, where labour is plentiful, cheap and well trained and the trade is well known. Others are looking to Hongkong as a desirable place to transfer their industrial establishments to, but the want of expert labour procurable on the spot stands as an obstacle in the way of realisation of this scheme. It is estimated that the number of operatives on strike is about 3,000, and not 10,000 as stated by some Manila newspapers.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 31st July.

GREAT FLOODS.

Three or four months ago when there was no rain, and in consequence the rain water turned brackish, people complained, and the Chinese officials went to the temple of the King Dragon to pray for rain. Now the rain has come in heavy downpours for a month or so, till at last fourteen districts in Kwongfu prefecture and twelve districts in Sewfu prefecture have been flooded by the West River, and nearly all the dykes, houses and shops have been broken down, and the mulberry-trees, sugar-canes, ground-nuts, rice, and paddy destroyed. H.E. the Viceroy has now despatched several officials to the districts of Nam Hoi, Sam Sui, and Koyew, to make a tour of inspection. The tide rose up to 5 and 6 feet high, and thousands of inhabitants have been rendered homeless, while many have died. At Wuchow especially all the streets outside the city have been inundated and all the wooden rafts swept away. The water rose up to the roofs. The villages of Nam Ning, and Loo Chow have been entirely swept away, and there is not one house left, while the inhabitants had no means of escape. Several villages in the district of Kwai Lum have also been swept away, the flood rising to 7 or 8 feet high, and all living beings were drowned. The Chinese here say: "Before the plague is over here comes the calamity of water, which has destroyed innumerable lives."

Rumours have been current in Canton, the *Chung Ngai San Po* says, to the effect that the Canton authorities have recently received a despatch from Cheng Kung Pao, the chief director of railways, saying that, as the construction of the Canton-Hankow railway will soon commence, some civil and military officers should be sent to examine the places through which the line is to pass. The Viceroy has consequently ordered Sin Kau-kuk to fulfil that errand. It is also reported that the Anglo-Chinese company proposes that the Canton and Hongkong railway shall start from Fa-ti, and that the American and Chinese railway company wish to construct a railway from the prefecture of Kwangchow passing through Tung-kwou, San-on, Waichow and Chinchow to the province of Fokkien, in connection with the Canton and Hongkong Railway Company.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE FORTHCOMING RACE MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 1st August.

SIR,—Surely "Tyro," the author of the letter which appeared in your issue of to-day, in his proposals does not go far enough towards making the chances of everyone more even. I should strongly advocate that instead of the waler griffins being allowed to arrive some six weeks before they have to race, they should only be allowed to arrive some six days before that date, and so as to prevent the experts gaining any undue advantage in that short interval and with the view of further equalising the chances of all, that the draw should not take place until the evening before the first day of the races. If this is done, and no one who has ever won a race is permitted to ride, I think everyone would have such an equal chance that it would certainly effectually stimulate, or stifle, racing in Hongkong for many years to come. "Tyro," as the originator of the scheme and as a downright good sportsman, might claim either an allowance of 10 lbs or a start in each race, so that as far as possible he should not find himself out in the cold.—Yours, etc.,

"DRIVELLER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 1st August.

SIR,—I have been so strongly impressed by the sporting spirit shown by your correspondent who so aptly styles himself "Tyro," that

I must ask you to allow me to make another suggestion of the same kind. As I understand that the policy advocated by "Tyro" for the effective quashing of the few men among us who have some little knowledge of the art of training horses, has the support of the Stewards and a large following of the more sporting members, would it not simplify matters if instead of going to the trouble and expense of sending all the way to Australia for horses to race with, we merely made a list of subscribers and allotted each an imaginary horse by ballot? Then the names of these imaginary horses could be shaken up in a hat, by let us say the Clerk of the Course, and drawn by a Committee of Stewards, the last three names drawn being the placed horses. By adopting this means of racing there would be no necessity for either horses, jockeys, trainers, or even a racecourse: it would be more economical, and gentlemen of the "Tyro" stamp, who don't know a China pony from a Jersey cow, would have precisely the same chance of winning the Hongkong Derby as, say, John Porter, were he a competitor; this would be conducive to good sport. Trusting that in the interests of sport you will be able to find room for the publication of this letter.—Yours, etc.,

"NIMROD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 1st August.

SIR,—As one who takes an interest in racing in Hongkong I am extremely glad to see by the correspondence which has lately been appearing in your columns that the question of a programme for next meeting is already engaging the attention of a number of members of the local Jockey Club, and I beg you will allow me space in your columns to have my little say on the same subject.

I entirely agree with "Veteran" and "Owner" that old Hongkong walers should be more considered in formulating a programme for our next meeting, and that a number of races should be allotted to them in proportion to the number of animals likely to be entered.

I understand that there are at present in the Colony over twenty of this year's walers besides several of previous years, and certainly the pick of the 1902 griffins are still in the land of the living. I believe that at least fifteen of these would be trained and entered for next year's races if there were given them any reasonable chance of picking up a race. Given fifteen ponies entering, at least seven or eight races might fairly be allowed to them, open in some cases to this season's walers, with allowances as thought advisable.

Fifteen races have been allotted, at every meeting here (except the last) for many years past, to old China ponies, and the average number of entries has only been about thirty, owned perhaps by ten different owners.

At the last meeting ten races were set aside for China ponies on the official programme. The total number of these ponies entered was twenty-four. The whole ten races fell to five ponies owned by only three different owners.

Twenty races were allotted to walers. These provided fifteen different winners owned by ten different interests.

The fifteen walers I regard as likely to be entered, if sufficient inducement offers, would probably represent at least ten different interests and thus mean probably good fields; and I therefore submit that the old walers will provide equally good, if not better, sport than the old China ponies and should be encouraged.—Yours, etc.,

"ANOTHER NOVICE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th August.

SIR,—As there seems to be quite an amount of interest taken in the controversy now going on in your columns under the heading of "The Forthcoming Race Meeting," it may perhaps not be out of place for an outsider to make a suggestion. It would appear that with the advent of the waler a change has come over the scene, and apparently different factions have sprung up in the Club, etc. 1st.—the China pony crowd whose cry is "Away with the waler"; 2nd.—The waler crowd who rally to the cry of "Down with the China pony"; 3rd.

—the reform at any price crowd who cry in a loud voice for "Reforms" without, it appears to me, any very definite idea of what shape the reform is to take. However, there is no gain-saying the fact that the Stewards are placed in the exceedingly uncomfortable position of having to try to satisfy each of these antagonistic forces. Now would it not be a good policy for the management of the Jockey Club—who, I am certain, are only too glad to do anything practical in the way of furthering the sport of horse-racing—to adopt a policy of meeting the requirements of these different factions as far as it is in their power to do, and let the law of "the survival of the fittest" do the rest? To this end I would respectfully submit for their consideration the following propositions:—

A. That the Club hold two or more meetings a year instead of one.

B. That the programmes be divided into three or more classes, something as follows:—

1st. *The China Pony*—To be raced under existing laws which as far as I can hear have always given satisfaction.

2nd. *The Waler Pony*—For all subscription ponies imported by the Club and allotted by ballot as at present, such ponies to be from 13 to 14½ hands, so that they may always have a certain value as polo ponies. All these ponies to be eligible for all time in their own class. Handicap to be weight for inches as per Indian scale, all races for this class to be open to any season's pony, but all new season ponies will receive handicap of, say, 10 lbs. (or whatever amount practical experience may prove to be necessary to bring them together) from past seasons' importations.

3rd. *The Race Horse*—For racehorses, professionals from any part of the world, to be raced under English Jockey Rules, viz., that every such horse, trainer, or jockey, must produce credentials from the Jockey Club governing the Turf in the country from which they come.

By adopting some such plan as that roughly sketched above I am certain that not only will satisfaction be given to all parties, but that local racing will in a short time assume proportions in keeping with the importance of the Colony of Hongkong. Trusting that the Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club will not consider this expression of opinion by one who has not yet had the pleasure of racing under their patronage as an impertinence.—Yours, etc.,

HORSEMAN.

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY AND STORM WARNINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Swatow, 4th August.

SIR,—In the interest of all people connected with the business from the port of Hongkong I would thank you to insert the following in your valuable paper. I just happened to see the captains of the British steamer *Haiching* and of the German steamer *Decima*, both of which left Hongkong on Friday afternoon for this port. Both gentlemen complain bitterly of the insufficiency of the storm warnings of the Hongkong Observatory. The *Decima*, being a few hours ahead of the *Haiching*, went right through the centre of the last typhoon without being properly warned of its approach, sustaining a lot of damage, though happily no loss of lives has to be reported, and arriving here with her cargo gone over. The *Haiching* was able to put back in time and only arrived here this morning. Not being a nautical man myself I refrain from going into any other details, hoping that sooner or later some of the most concerned, the captains of coasting steamers themselves, will combine to lodge a complaint at the proper quarter, i.e., the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.—Yours, etc.,

OUTPORT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 8th August.

SIR,—The Observatory people are a little mixed about the movements of typhoons when in contact with the island of Formosa. A

typhoon never crosses the island, as the central ridge is some 10,000 feet high and the air is so rarified at that height that it is impossible to cross. When a typhoon strikes the South Cape it frequently gets split up into two. One comes careering over towards the mainland and goes in the direction of Swatow and strikes inland, and the other goes up the east coast of Formosa and then takes a N.W. or W.N.W. direction towards Foochow after passing the N. end of island. I have been at the Pescadores with every appearance of a bad typhoon—glass 28, but a calm—and afterwards found that a typhoon was raging to the east of island.—Yours, etc.,

T. E. C.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 8th August.

SIR,—In most states of the atmosphere it is impossible to distinguish whether it is the black or red signal which is exposed, as from a distance of ½ a mile the red invariably appears to be black. Might I suggest that the red colour be changed for something more discernable?—Yours, etc.,

NAUTICUS.

THE RAINFALL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 4th August.

SIR,—I have often wondered why you do not publish the rainfall of Saturday—"to date at 10 a.m."—and have intended to make the enquiry before. The rainfall on Saturday and Sunday is, during the typhoon season, usually of exceptional interest, yet it is not given. Can you not induce the Observatory authorities to supply the tables for both Saturday and Sunday for publication in your Monday's issue? It would be appreciated by your readers and it would enable those interested to keep a record of the rainfall during the month, which at present is impossible.

It would also be interesting and useful if a rain gauge were to be kept at the Peak.—Yours, etc.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

[We will endeavour to induce the Observatory authorities to do as our correspondent suggests.—Ed. D.P.]

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 4th August.

SIR,—Strange proceedings seem to be in vogue among the directors of the above concern. To-day there appears in your advertising columns a notice convening an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders to take place after the half-yearly meeting, to consider the very important matter of buying from the Government a site for the proposed new dock. In view of the magnitude of this question, surely some time should be given to allow those holding shares not in their own names—but many of them in the directors' names—to transfer them, so as to be ready to vote according to their judgment. Is the coincidence of the closing of the share-register and advertising the extraordinary meeting on the same day to be regarded as a well considered or ill considered move on the part of the directors?—Yours, etc.,

SHAREHOLDER.

DENGUE FEVER: A CURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 4th August.

SIR,—As dengue fever is so prevalent in the Colony at present, perhaps a suggestion for its cure will not be out of place. Several cases have been cured with a certain preparation of mixed tea, what the Chinese call *Lap-sap-chai*, which, from my own experience, I strongly recommend the sufferers of this annoying disease to make a trial. The said medicine can be obtained at any Chinese dispensary at the trifling cost of a few cash. It is packed in yellow paper with Chinese characters on each

bundle. Although I did not take the trouble to analyse its contents, yet it can easily be seen to contain nothing but a mixture of dry foliage, which has been proved to be very effectual. Directions for use:—Two teacups of water boiled with this medicine till it reduces to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cup. Perspiration will soon follow, and the patient will be greatly relieved afterwards and finally cured, as was the case with—Yours, etc.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

THE TYPHOON AND THE WATER POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 4th August.

SIR,—In your account of the typhoon you make a statement detrimental to the Water Police, who, you say, did not put in an appearance to help save the unfortunate Chinese on a junk at Kowloon. Mr. Crisp, of the P.W.D., Mr. Stebbings and myself, together with a member of the Water Police, whose name I do not know were watching that junk from 5.45 to 8. This water policeman was untiring in his efforts to save those on the junk. He tried hard to get a boat to go to them, but was refused permission. Capt. Brown had "gone to change his clothes," we were told. We left the policeman there while we went to dinner and returned at 8.30. From 5.45 to 8 neither of the persons you mention had put in an appearance, but when we returned at 8.30 they, together with your reporter, were just leaving. We stayed there till 10, when Capt. Brown assured us they were out of danger. Now, Sir, in justice to this policeman who worked so hard I think you ought to withdraw your remarks which are calculated to do him harm.—Yours, etc.,

CHAS. T. LETTON.

[Our representative who reported the incident above referred to maintains the accuracy of his statements, and says that altogether he stood by the junk for six hours, during which time he saw no member of the Water Police.—Ed. D.P.]

INSANITARY HOUSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 5th August.

SIR,—When putrid meat which would kill those using it is seized, is the owner compensated? If not, why should the owner of a putrid house, which kills (by disease) those using it, expect compensation?—Yours, etc.,

GENTILE.

"A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 5th August.

SIR,—I am glad to see that "Terrified" has drawn attention to the condition of the Black Rock in Chamberlain Road. Another small landslide has taken place close to it, and it would be interesting to know how far into the ground the rock extends. Some Peakites have an idea that it would not take much to make the whole mass topple over with a mighty crash. That I may not be resting in its shadow at that moment is the prayer of,—Yours, etc.,

HORRIFIED.

ALLEGED ARMS-SMUGGLING THROUGH MACAO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 6th August.

SIR,—Some local papers having reported the rumour that of late large quantities of arms have been imported into Macao, and that their supposed destination, the arms not being required for use in Macao, is the interior of China, I am requested by the Macao Government to inform you that there is no truth whatever in the said rumour, which I shall be much obliged if you will kindly contradict. I enclose a copy of the *Boletim Oficial* of the 4th instant, in which you will find the result of the enquiry into this matter.—Yours, etc.,

A. G. ROMANO,
Consul-General for Portugal.

A QUESTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 8th August.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper to draw the attention of the owner of the Lamboe wharf in front of the Yau-mati police station to its present broken up and dangerous condition, rendered so apparently by the typhoons. As the wharf is still extensively used by the ferry launches running between Yau-mati and Hongkong, it is of the utmost importance that it should be repaired at once in order to prevent accidents which may happen at any moment to some of the thousands of passengers who have to make use of it daily to get into or out of the said ferries. As the recent typhoons have rendered a few of the small private-owned jetties more or less dangerous to the public, who are obliged to make use of them for one reason or another, would it not be the duty of the Government to see that they are repaired with as little delay as possible and always maintained in a fit and sound condition?—Yours, etc.,

KOWLOONITE.

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LD.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held in the offices on the 5th inst. The Hon. C. W. Dickson presided, the others present being the Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs. E. Geetz, A. Haupt, F. A. Gomes, N. A. Siels (directors), A. H. M. da Silva, J. J. Leiria, W. A. Cruickshank, C. H. Ross, (Captain) W. E. Clarke, W. King, G. Gomes and T. Arnold (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I propose that, as usual, the report and accounts be taken as read. The position of the Company is so fully set forth in these documents that there is but little for me to add in proposing their adoption. The net earnings of our steamers, although not equal to those of the corresponding six months of 1901, are nevertheless fully up to the average, and I have no doubt that you will agree with me in regarding the result of the half-year's working as satisfactory, enabling us, as it does, to declare a dividend of 10 per cent., to write off \$50,000 from the book value of our steamers and to carry forward the substantial sum of \$44,000 with which to begin the current half-year's account. The transfer of the control of the Native Customs at Canton to the Imperial Customs is of too recent date to have materially affected our earnings for the period under review, and it may be another year or two before the full benefit of this change will be reaped. Meanwhile, however, it is gratifying to note that several important articles of export, such as tea and matting, which for some years past have been almost exclusively shipped by junk, are already returning to the steamers. Good progress is being made with the construction of our new steamer, the order for which your directors are pleased to have been able to place locally at a price which compares favourably with the home tenders. I do not think, gentlemen, that there is anything in the accounts calling for special explanation on my part, but before proposing their adoption I shall be pleased to answer any questions which may suggest themselves to shareholders.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. LEIRIA, the report and accounts were adopted and passed.

The nomination of the Hon. C. W. Dickson as Chairman in place of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving was confirmed, upon the motion of Captain CLARKE, seconded by Mr. da Silva.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK moved the re-election of the retiring directors, Hon. C. W. Dickson and Mr. F. A. Gomes; and the proposal, seconded by Mr. ROSS, was carried unanimously.

Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, the latter in the place of Mr. Henderson, who has left the Colony, were reappointed auditors, on the motion of Mr. G. GOMES, seconded by Mr. LEIRIA.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready at ten o'clock to-morrow (this) morning upon application.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Olivers Freehold Mines, Ltd., was held on the 5th inst. in the offices of the general managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, 38, Queen's Road. Mr. Bart Buck presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. A. Jupp, A. H. Mancell, A. P. Nobbs, W. D. Sutton, Wong Mow Lam, Lau Chu Pak, and J. L. Cotter.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as indicated at the last general meeting we meet to-day to appoint a liquidator for the winding up of the Company. There were only two courses before us, one to raise more capital and continue our endeavours and the other to go into liquidation and wind up the company. I think all shareholders will agree with me that raising more capital is out of the question. We have done the best we could with the comparatively small amount we had at our disposal, and with the help of the gold won have kept going for about five years. It is of course possible that with more money for new working a success might be made of our property, but considering the misfortunes that have overtaken most of the mining enterprises worked with Hongkong capital, we do not feel justified in recommending any further attempt being made from here. I am afraid we cannot expect to receive very much for our property, but have no doubt that the gentleman we have suggested as liquidator will do the best that is possible for us. Before putting the resolution to you, I shall be pleased to hear any remarks from shareholders or answer any questions in connection with the Company's affairs.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed—"That the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Arthur Rylands Lowe, of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, chartered accountant, be, and he is hereby appointed, liquidator, for the purpose of such winding up."

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. A confirmatory meeting will be held of which the usual notice will be given.

QUEEN MINES, LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Queen Mines, Ltd., was held on the 5th inst. at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, 38, Queen's Road, for the purpose of winding up the Company. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. A. Jupp, A. H. Mancell, Wong Mow Lam, Lau Chu Pak, and J. L. Cotter.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the notice which has just been read fully sets forth the object for which this meeting has been called. I informed you at the last general meeting of the Company, held on April last, that a meeting to wind up would shortly be held. The position is very little altered. Our neighbours the Olivers Company have altogether discontinued operations and there is therefore no object in delaying the final steps any further. The statement of accounts made up to the end of June last is on the table before you and differs in but a slight degree from that we presented to you at the general meeting in April. We have confidence that Mr. Lowe will do what is necessary as well as it can be done, so I will not detain you longer, but propose the resolution. I therefore propose—"That the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Arthur Rylands Lowe, of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, chartered accountant, be, and he is hereby appointed, liquidator for the purpose of such winding up."

Mr. A. H. MANCELL seconded, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—A confirmatory meeting will be held at an early date, gentlemen, of which the usual notice will be given.

The *Times* correspondent at Johannesburg states that an attempt is being made to prepare the way for the introduction of Chinese labour to the Transvaal.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The following is the report of the board of directors of the above Company to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the company, on Monday, the 18th inst., at 11.15 a.m.:

GENTLEMEN,—The Directors have now to submit to you their report, with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 30th June last.

The net profit for the six months, after paying interest due and all charges, amounts to \$373,460.86 to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account \$420,119.59

and from this have to be deducted—

Directors' fees ... \$10,000.00
Auditors' fees ... 750.00

10,750.00

leaving available for appropriation \$782,830.45

The Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent. or \$250,000, and a bonus of 2 per cent. or \$50,000, in all \$300,000, be paid to the shareholders; that \$168,004.85 be written from the value of Kowloon Docks, \$10,676.92 from the Cosmopolitan Dock, \$10,755.99 from the Fame, steam launches and lighters, and the balance \$263,392.69 be carried to the new account.

While the volume of work done, in comparison with the corresponding period of last year, shows a falling off of between 55 per cent. and 60 per cent, with a corresponding decrease in our profits, the first half of last year was a record one in the history of the Company, the net profits amounting to over 9 lacs of dollars, but last year was an exceptional one and exceptional years cannot be looked for continuously. Then again, our profits for the period under review have had to bear the cost of heavy repairs to the caissons of two of our principal docks. Consequently, the results of the six months' working can fairly be regarded as satisfactory with prospects for better results for the second half-year.

At Kowloon, the engine works building is rapidly approaching completion. The transporting and the final grouping of the working plant within it awaits the development of the scheme for electric drive referred to at last annual meeting. A step in that direction has been taken by the furnishing of three electrically driven cranes, one 25-ton and two 10-ton, now in course of erection, but much remains to be done before the general working plant is placed upon a modern and economical working footing.

During the period under review a contract has been closed, and the work well under way, for the construction and engineering of a large light draught steamer for the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, the dimensions of which are as follows:—

Length between perpendiculars, ... 290 feet.
Beam at main deck, ... 54 feet.
Beam at load line, ... 43 feet 9 ins.
Depth, moulded, ... 12 feet.

This is the largest item of construction work ever undertaken by the Company, but it demonstrates the increasing and up to date capabilities of our works.

The directors have to announce that the negotiations with the Government for purchase of the land at Kowloon for the proposed new dock have now been brought to a stage which warrants them in submitting the whole question to shareholders for their favourable consideration, and this will be done at an extraordinary meeting advertised to be held immediately after the ordinary half-yearly meeting.

D. E. BROWN, CHAIRMAN.

Hongkong, 2nd August, 1902.

The following are the accounts:—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1902. ASSETS. \$ c.
Aberdeen.
To value of Aberdeen Docks, as per last statement 100,000.00
Kowloon.

To value of Kowloon Docks, as per last statement 1,955,988.36
Less amount since written off 155,988.36

1,800,000.00

To amount paid on account of removal of hill on the new extension, Kowloon Marine Lot No. 27 4,761.85

To amount paid in connection with purchase of Hunghom Inland Lot No. 62 2,900.00

To amount paid on account of new iron store 3,362.00

To amount paid on account of new fitting shop 34,576.00

To amount paid on account of new forge 23,671.00

To amount paid on account of new hydraulic installation 4,491.00

To amount paid on account of new electric cranes 7,005.63

To amount paid completing new coppersmiths' shop 9,740.00

To amount paid building and completing new tool store 7,489.00

To amount paid building and completing new wrecking and diving gear store 2,427.00

To cost of one pneumatic hammer for coppersmiths' shop 587.33

To cost of new machines for engine shop 15,415.00

To cost of new machine tools for boiler shop 1,577.64

1,918,004.85

Cosmopolitan.

To value of Cosmopolitan Dock, as per last statement 348,787.67

Less amount since written off 23,787.07

325,000.00

To amount paid on account of four new houses for European foremen 15,676.92

340,676.92

Tug, Dredger, Launches and Lighters.

To value of Fame as per last account 15,000.00

To value of dredger Canton River 90,900.00

To value of steam launches, steam lighter, lighters and boats, as per last account 53,396.00

Add cost of one new steam lighter and one launch 57,449.99

215,755.99

To sundry debtors 175,088.74

To value of material on hand 1,665,980.65

\$4,415,507.15

30th June, 1902. LIABILITIES.

By shareholders for 50,000 shares of \$50 each, fully paid up 2,500,000.00

By Admiralty loan £20,000 00

Less repayments 12,154 133

£7,545 69 at 1s. 8s. 9 16d. 88,067.16

By sundry creditors 1,033,859.54

By balance of profit brought forward from last account 420,119.59

By profit 373,460.86

793,580.45

\$4,415,507.15

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1902. \$ c.

To interest 18,531.00

To Crown rent 3,062.05

To fire insurance 3,198.40

To office expenses, salaries, stationery, and rent of head office 43,729.94

To drawing office expenses and salaries 17,066.22

To telegrams 1,269.13

To legal expenses 649.50

To Admiralty loan exchange adjustment account 6,880.79

To subscription to Coronation Celebration Fund 500.00

To profit 373,460.86

\$478,347.89

1st January to 30th June, 1902. \$ c.

By net earnings of the company's three establishments 473,917.67

By towage, net earnings 3,863.99

By scrip fees 297.00

By bonus on insurance premia, etc. 269.23

\$478,347.89

The following letters have been sent to us for publication:—

Hongkong, 5th August.

Gentlemen,—Having read the advertisement in to-day's paper calling an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders to be held immediately after the close of the half-yearly meeting

on the 18th instant, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, accepting the offer of the Government of a Crown lease of the piece of land adjoining the Dock Co.'s premises at Hunghom for the purpose of constructing a new dock thereon, it seems to the undersigned that the notice given of this meeting is altogether insufficient. It must be remembered that this notice has been published after the closing of the books, and a number of shareholders who have not thought it necessary to transfer their shares, would, were this meeting held as proposed, be debarred from attending the meeting or taking part in the proceedings. Many other shareholders who hold shares in the names of former proprietors would also be liable to have those shares used against them.

We cannot suppose that the Board of Directors fixed upon this early date intentionally or with design to surprise shareholders, but prefer to believe that it was purely accidental and due to a desire merely to study the general convenience. We feel sure that the matter needs only to be pointed out for the Directors to reconsider the date of the meeting and postpone it for such time as may be necessary for the books to be opened and opportunity be allowed for the transfer of shares to the names of present owners. In view of the very great importance of the question to be discussed at the extraordinary meeting the undersigned do not hesitate to make this request.—We are, gentlemen, yours faithfully,

[Here follow signatures.]

The DIRECTORS,
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 6th August.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed to acknowledge receipt of letter dated yesterday addressed to the Directors of the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., signed by yourself and others requesting a reconsideration by the Board and postponement of the date advertised (*viz.*, August 18th) calling an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders for the purpose of considering an offer of the Government for a Crown lease of a piece of land adjoining our present Hunghom premises for the construction thereon of a new dock.

The reason for such postponement being the insufficiency of the notice, preventing, as it might, some shareholders from attending the meeting and taking part in the proceedings owing to their having had no opportunity after the meeting was advertised for the transfer of shares to the names of present owners. I am instructed to inform you in reply that the directors had already reconsidered the date of meeting, and advertised its postponement in last evening's papers prior to receipt of your letter.—I am, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

W. B. DIXON,
Chief Manager.

R. BECKER, Esq.

Hongkong 6th August.

Gentlemen,—With reference to the extraordinary meeting of the shareholders now being called and postponed, many of them would be obliged if the directors would furnish them with the Government's proposal in regard to the sale of the land for the new dock, and the outlines of the actual scheme which is to be put before the meeting, so that they may have an opportunity of considering them beforehand in all their bearings. At present the notice gives no information to the shareholders as to the scheme they are asked to vote upon.—I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

J. R. MICHAEL.

The DIRECTORS,
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.

Hongkong, 8th August.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6th inst. and in reply to inform you that a general outline of the scheme will be circulated among shareholders prior to the special meeting, which will be called about three months hence, and in ample time for the consideration of shareholders at that meeting.—I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

W. B. DIXON,
Chief Manager,

J. R. MICHAEL, Esq.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 6th August.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH
GOUDMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).SORABJEE BYRAMJEE BHABHA v. CHAN
CHEUN CREONG.

This was a claim for \$1,534.66 damages, alleged to have been sustained by reason of the defendant's negligence in suffering his houses, Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street, to remain in such bad repair that they fell and damaged the plaintiff's house, No. 31, Cochrane Street.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, Solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant was not represented in Court.

In his statement of claim, the plaintiff said that he resided at 2, Hollywood Road and was the owner of the house 31, Cochrane Street. Defendant resided at 44, Stanley Street and was the owner of the houses, 32 and 34, Cochrane Street. The defendant's houses were of such faulty construction and the defendant kept them in such bad repair that on the 14th of August, 1901, the houses fell and in their fall broke and tore down the verandahs of the plaintiff's house and damaged the front of it. In consequence of the aforesaid default and neglect of the defendant, the plaintiff was compelled to re-erect the verandahs and repair the front of his house at a cost of \$1,600 and lost five and a half months' rent amounting to \$473, less \$33 34 received for storing goods on the ground floor. In his defence the defendant denied that he was the owner of the houses, 32 and 34, Cochrane Street. He admitted that these houses fell on 14th August, 1901, and damaged the house, 31, Cochrane Street. But the said fall and damage were not due to any neglect or default on the defendant's part. The damage did not amount to \$1,499.66 or any sum near thereto. In his reply to this defence, the plaintiff stated that if the defendant was not now the owner of the houses 32 and 34, Cochrane Street, which was not admitted, he was the owner on 14th August, 1901.

Mr. Slade said that at the last moment the defendant had withdrawn and was not now appearing by counsel to uphold the defence he had set up. This case was an echo to the Cochrane Street disaster of two years ago when the houses 32 and 34, Cochrane Street collapsed and killed a number of the inhabitants and fell across the street, breaking the house opposite which belonged to the plaintiff. He submitted that he need not prove actual negligence on the part of the defendant. The case of *Fletcher v. Rylands* ("Smith's Leading Cases"), laid down the maxim *sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas*; the defendant was liable on the mere fact that his house fell on the plaintiff's land and broke his house.

Evidence was then taken as to the ownership of the houses in question and the amount of damage done.

Mr. G. H. Wakemen of the Land Office gave evidence as to the ownership of the houses.

Mr. H. P. Trotter, executive engineer, Public Works Department, deposed that he attributed the fall of the two houses to defective walls and alterations being made which were unauthorised by the Public Works Department.

Mr. H. C. Wilcox gave evidence with regard to the amount of damage done to No. 31, Cochrane Street.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, remarking that there could be no doubt it was pretty strongly laid down that if the owner of a house allowed it to get into a ruinous condition so that it or some part of it fell down he was liable not only for the injury done to persons but also for the damage done to neighbouring houses.

The Court adjourned.

Fire broke out between three and 4 a.m. on the 5th inst. in a store occupied by Chinese at 17, Circular Pathway, spreading to the first and second floors—Chinese dwelling-houses. The ground floor was gutted and the others seriously damaged.

AN EMIGRATION ORDINANCE
CASE.

At the Magistracy on the 8th inst., Mr. F. A. Hazeland delivered the following decision in a case in which James Williamson, master of the Chinese-chartered steamer *Telemachus*, was charged with violating the provisions of the Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance, 1889.—The defendant was charged before me under Section 6 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1889 (Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance, 1889) with proceeding to sea on a voyage of more than seven days' duration without being provided with a licence under the hand of the Governor and the public seal of the Colony. The said section is as follows:—"No Chinese passenger-ship shall clear out or proceed to sea on a voyage of more than seven days' duration and the Emigration Office shall not grant the certificate prescribed by Section 4 of the Chinese Passenger Act, 1885, unless the master of such ship shall be provided with a licence under the hand of the Governor and the public seal of the Colony, or under the hand and seal of an emigration officer to be obtained in manner hereinafter mentioned." The facts of the case are as follows: The British steamship *Telemachus*, of which the defendant is master, left Hongkong on the 6th July, 1902, at 6 a.m., for Hoihow, with 400 Chinese passengers. She arrived there on the 7th July, 1902, at 12 noon. On the 8th July, 1902, at 3 p.m., she left again for Singapore. It was further proved in evidence that the said 400 passengers had tickets issued to Hoihow, which were collected before arrival at Hoihow, it was further proved in evidence that the same 400 passengers proceeded on the said *Telemachus* to Singapore, being provided with other tickets at Hoihow. These said tickets were collected before the steamer arrived at Singapore. By Government Notification No. 1 of 1884, made pursuant to Section 3 of the Chinese Passenger Act 1885, it is declared that a voyage to the Straits Settlements should be computed to be of nine days' duration. The question for my decision is whether the *Telemachus* on the 6th July, 1902, proceeded to sea on a voyage to Singapore or Hoihow. I think I am right in applying to this case the doctrine which is known in International Law in connection with contraband-carriers and blockade-runners as the "doctrine of the continuous voyage." If the contraband cargo was destined when it left the port of shipment for the use of the enemy, no principle of the law of nations and no consideration of the rights of neutral commerce could sanction the view that the mere touching at a neutral port either for the purpose of making it a new port of departure or for the purpose of transshipment ought to exempt the vessel or cargo from capture. It made no difference whether the destination was ulterior or direct, nor could the transshipment at a neutral port break the of continuity of the of transportation. The interposition of a neutral port has always been a favourite resort of contraband-carriers and blockade-runners, but it never availed when the ultimate destination was ascertained; the transportation remained continuous as long as the intent remained unchanged, no matter what stoppages or transshipments intervened. With respect to the defence of a *mens rea* raised by the defendant, I am of opinion that knowledge is not essential to the offence created by the Ordinance, the object of the Legislature being to protect Chinese passengers going on a voyage of more than seven days, and it must be supposed that they intended the wrong-doer should act at his peril. I hold therefore that this voyage was a voyage to Singapore and not a voyage to Hoihow. I therefore convict the defendant, and order him to pay a fine of \$500, in default of which he will be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for six months.

Mr. H. L. Denny, Acting Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. J. Hastings defended.

The Order of the Rising Sun, third class, has been conferred by the Emperor of Japan upon Mr. Charles Holme, Honorary Secretary of the Japan Society, and the Order of the Sacred Treasure, third class, upon Mr. Paul Bevan, Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. Marcus B. Huish, Honorary Librarian, also of the Japan Society.

THE KOWLOON BRIGADE
GYMKHANA.

A gymkhana promoted jointly by the H.K. S.B.R.A. and the Indian Brigade was held on the 5th inst. at Happy Valley. It had had to be postponed more than once on account of the bad weather and therefore the complete success which attended it yesterday was all the more gratifying. There was a large attendance of the military and the general public. His Excellency Major General Sir William Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., and Lady Gascoigne were present and followed the various events with interest. The band and pipers of the Indian regiment played selections during the afternoon and the whole arrangements were ably carried out by a Committee of the officers of the Kowloon Garrison, a big share of the work falling upon the shoulders of Lieut. G. B. Thornhill. As was to be expected the going was rather heavy owing to the recent rains, and this led to one unfortunate accident; in the polo scurry race the pony of Mr. K. McRoss (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) fell and the rider was thrown heavily and had his collar-bone fractured. Lieut. Stephen, I.M.S., attended to his injuries. Major Gwynne was also thrown at the end of this race, but was not severely hurt. The results were as follows:—

SEPOYS' RACE— $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile.—Najab Khan H.K.R.; 2, Rafi Bu, H.K.R.; 3, Shoon-Avadar 22nd B.I. The finish was very close.

SADDLING RACE.—Competitors to line up dismounted, with ponies, mount, ride bare backed to saddles; saddle up and ride back.—Mr. W. A. Cruickshank. Won with a good deal to spare.

POLO SCURRY—2 Furlongs—Catch weights. Open to *bona fide* polo ponies.—Mr. E. C. Pontifex and Hon. F. H. May finished a dead heat, after an exciting race.

LADIES' NOMINATION—100 Yards.—Gentleman to ride bicycle, lift it over a hurdle, ride to lady who will light cigarette in gentleman's mouth and gentleman will ride back round hurdle.—Lieut. H. S. Moberly, nominated by Mrs. Saunders, won without much difficulty.

TENT PEGGING—3 runs.—Prize kindly presented by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding. There was a big number of competitors; after an exciting contest the prize was secured by Mr. W. A. Cruickshank.

LADIES' NOMINATION—Farm Yard Stakes. Gentleman will be given name of animal, ride to lady and make noise of animal. Lady will write name on blank sheet of paper, place it in envelope and seal it and hand envelope to gentleman, who will ride back to starting post. First in with name of animal correct wins. This race caused some amusement. It was won by Hon. F. H. May, nominated by Mrs. Beeton.

BENDING RACE.—Open to horses and ponies—8 Posts 8 yards apart. A close contest resulted in a win for Major J. H. Gwynne.

At the conclusion of the gymkhana, the prizes were presented to the winners by Lady Gascoigne, who was introduced by Major Berger and gracefully performed the ceremony. Three cheers were afterwards given for Lady Gascoigne on the call of Major Berger, this closing the proceedings.

HONGKONG.

Mr. H. E. Nicholls, Local Government Auditor, returned to Hongkong on the 1st inst.

H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, will probably arrive in the Colony on the 19th instant.

After almost twenty years' service in that Police Force of the Colony, Inspector Donald McLennan left in the *Kiautschou* on the 7th inst. for home. Inspector McLennan was a capable officer and a crack shot.

At matins on the 3rd inst. in St. John's Cathedral the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., preached his first sermon as Senior Chaplain. The typhoon was responsible for the very small congregation present.

Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, the newly appointed Postmaster-General of Hongkong, is son of the deceased M.P. for Belfast South, Mr. W. Johnston of Ballykilbeg, who was a well known figure in the House of Commons.

The Japanese cruiser *Chitose* arrived from Amoy on the 5th inst.

Statements of sanitary measures adopted against Hongkong and of quarantine restrictions in force in Hongkong are published in the *Gazette*. From these it appears that measures have been adopted against this port by Shanghai, Manila, Singapore, Indo-China, Saigon, Lisbon, Bangkok, and Foochow, while Hongkong requires medical examination (if allowed by quarantine at the discretion of the Health Officer) of arrivals from Shanghai, Manila, Macao, Pakhoi, Amoy, Tientsin, Tongku and Taku.

His Honour the Chief Justice has been pleased to appoint Mr. Leonardo d'Almada e Castro, second Clerk of the Supreme Court and Clerk to the Puisne Judge, at present holding the appointment of acting first clerk of Court and clerk to the Chief Justice, to be commissioner to administer oaths and take declarations, affirmations, and attestations of honour in the Court so long as he shall continue to hold either of the said offices. This is the first occasion, we understand, on which a clerk of the Court has received such an appointment.

At the Magistracy on the 11th inst. a Chinaman from Chung Chau Island was charged with stealing four pairs of jade stone bangles from the dead body of a young woman which he had been engaged to bury. In a statement made to his Worship, Mr. F. A. Hazeland, the defendant said it was Chinese custom for the mourners at a burial to keep their eyes away from the corpse when it was being lifted into the coffin, and profiting by the opportunity thus afforded he took the bangles off the dead girl's arms. Their discovery afterwards in his possession led to his arrest and conviction. He was sentenced to two months' hard labour.

The Indian troops from the transport *Jelunga* were given shore leave early on the 2nd inst., specially chartered sampans conveying the men ashore. The hoisting of the black drum and the firing of the typhoon gun sent the sampan scurrying to shelter at Causeway Bay, leaving the Gurkhas stranded no craft being obtainable to convey them back on board. The majority of the men were without coats or capes, and they presented anything but a soldierly appearance slouching aimlessly along Queen's Road, drenched to the skin, carrying bunches of bananas and other fruit. We believe the military authorities saw to their comfort and lodging until they were able to be sent on board the transport.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on the 5th inst. to consider the following applications:—(1.) From Annetta Papier for the transfer of her publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at No. 1, Jubilee Street, under the sign of "The Colonial Hotel," to O. Fromowitz. (2.) From Joaquim Gomes for the transfer of his publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at Nos. 318 and 320, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of the "International Hotel," to Moritz Sternberg. Mr. F. A. Hazeland presided, and the other Justices present were Messrs. J. H. Kemp, C. A. D. Melbourne, R. H. Craig, and A. F. Arculli. Mr. E. J. Grist appeared on behalf of the second applicant. There were no police objections, and the applications were granted unanimously.

H.M.S. *Amphitrite* arrived in the Harbour on the 1st inst. and took up a berth at the Terrible's old anchorage. It will be remembered that the *Amphitrite* on her way to Hongkong visited the Persian Gulf, where her immense size and great armament were reported to have created a profound sensation. She is 435 ft. long, 69 ft. beam, and draws 25 ft. 3 in. Her i.h.p. is 18,000, and she carries 16 6-in. q.f. guns, 14 12-pounders, 11 smaller q.f. and machine-guns. The *Amphitrite* was built at Barrow-in-Furness and launched in 1898. She has a speed of 20.75 knots and carries a complement of 677 officers and men. The cost of the cruiser, which is a sister-ship of the *Argonaut* and the *Ariadne*, was £546,227. Her displacement is 11,000 tons. The *Amphitrite* left again on the 6th inst. for Weihaiwei. She is expected to return about the beginning of next month.

H.M. unprotected composite gun-vessel *Swift*, as she now lies in the Harbour, will be exposed for sale by auction on 13th August, at 3 p.m. The Admiralty do not guarantee that she is fit for further sea-service.

The German mail steamer *Kiautschou*, which left for home on the 7th inst., passed the *Amphitrite* as the former was on the way from Shanghai on the 5th inst. The time-expired soldiers on the *Kiautschou* raised lusty cheers, which were heartily responded to by the crew of the *Amphitrite*, whose band played the German national air when the strains of "God Save the King" were wafted over the water from the German liner.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 8th August.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 8th August.—A further decline in prices is reported, market being dull. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.13 to \$8.18 per cwt.
do. " 2, White.....	6.70 to 6.75 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.05 to 6.10 "
do. " 2, Brown	5.85 to 5.90 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.02 to 8.07 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.65 to 6.70 "
do. " 1, Brown	5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.05 to 12.10 "
Shekloong "	9.60 to 9.65 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 8th August.—The prices are advancing, holders being firm. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$4.05 to 4.10
" Round, Good quality	4.00 to 4.05
" Long	4.15 to 4.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 1	3.25 to 3.30
" Garden, " No. 1	3.65 to 3.70
" White.....	4.20 to 4.25
" Fine Cargo	4.40 to 4.45

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORT.

Per steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed on the 10th July. For Port Said:—6 cases black-woodware, 10 rolls matting. For Odessa:—1000 boxes cassia lignea, 26 bales canes. For Alexandrette:—5 boxes glassbangles. For Trieste:—25 bales rattanshavings. For Fiume:—100 boxes cassia. For Valencia:—200 cases cassia. For Genoa:—628 bales raw silk, 316 boxes cassia, 200 bales pierced cocoons, 24 slabs tin. For Antwerp:—211 bales bamboo scraps. For Antwerp/London/Hamburg 10 cases bristles. Amsterdam: 6 rolls matting. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—13 rolls matting. For Rotterdam:—150 bales bamboo scraps, 100 pkgs. tea. For Bremen:—345 rolls matting, 8 bales feathers, 3 cases China ink, 2 half-chests tea, 1 case feathers. For London:—24 rolls matting. For Hamburg:—600 boxes cassia, 225 bales canes, 160 bales rattancore, 81 rolls matting, 61 cases bristles, 57 bales feathers, 15 pkgs. cassia, 7 cases China ink, 7 cases black-woodware, 4 boxes human hair, 2 cases China-ware, 1 case silk. For Hamburg/Copenhagen: 30 bales canes. For Copenhagen:—70 bales feathers.

Per M.M. steamer *Sydney*, sailed on the 30th June. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 42 cases tea, 12 cases human hair, 9 cases curios, 6 cases books and pictures. For Marseilles opt.:—500 cases cassia, 20 bales raw silk, 8 cases human hair. For Bordeaux:—25 rolls matting. For Barcelona:—6 cases silks. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—269 bales raw silk, 2½ bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Stentor* sailed on the 3rd July. For London:—697 boxes Congou tea=14,637 lbs., 5284 boxes scented caper tea=110,964 lbs., 32 boxes scented Or. Pekoe=672 lbs., 1,513 boxes tea from (Canton particulars unknown), 90 cases China-ware, 17 cases blackwoodware, 34 cases gum copal, 20 cases pitch, 50 bags antimony, 573 rolls matting, 138 bales canes, 167 bales hemp, 105 sacks gum copal, 45 pkgs. effects, 16 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London opt. Goole:—100 bales waste silk. For Bremerhaven:—4 cases camphorwood trunks.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th August.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$86.00 to \$129.00
English—Nos. 10 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.75
9 to 10 lbs.	3.80 to 5.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.55 to 2.90
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.40
64 to 66 "	4.50 to 5.30
Fine.....	5.35 to 7.80
Book-folds.....	4.50 to 7.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.85 to 2.10
7lbs. (32 ")	2.15 to 2.45
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.20 to 2.35
7lbs. (32 ")	2.95 to 3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.15 to 3.75
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	4.20 to 6.90

FANCY COTTONS—	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5 lbs.	1.65 to 5.50

DAMASKS—	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.68 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.28 to 0.75
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.30

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.30 to 3.00
WOOLLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.65 to 2.00
German	1.25 to 3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.50 to 8.50
Assorted.....	6.60 to 8.65
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	12.00 to 16.00
Assorted }	
Orleans—Plain	8.00 to 9.50

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 9.00
METALS—	per picul

Iron—Nail Rod	4.55 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.50 to —
Swedish Bar	4.60 to —
Small Round Rod	5.00 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.55 to —
Wire, 16/25,	9.25 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.10 to —
Australian	8.10 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	45.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.	39.00 to —
Tin.....	83.50 to —

Tin-Plates	8.75 to —
Steel ½ to ¾	6.50 to —
SUNDRIES—	per picul
Quicksilver	180.00 to —

Window Glass	5.75 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	2.00 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 8th August.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/4
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9
Credits, at 4 months' sight.....	1/9 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight.....	1/9 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.17
Credits, 4 months' sight.....	2.21
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.77
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	43
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129 1/4
Bank, on demand	130
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129 1/4
Bank, on demand	130

ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight.....	75
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	18½ p.c.m.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.m.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	16½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.c.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.44
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$59.91
BAR SILVER per oz.....	24½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.— <i>Telemachus</i> (str.), <i>Bengloe</i> (str.), <i>Tamba Maru</i> (str.).
FOR LONDON.— <i>Ballaarat</i> (str.), <i>Tamba Maru</i> (str.), <i>Bengloe</i> (str.), <i>Ulysses</i> (str.), <i>Telemachus</i> (str.), <i>Canton</i> (str.), <i>Glenturret</i> (str.), <i>Antenor</i> (str.), <i>Dardanus</i> (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.— <i>Pyrrhus</i> (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.— <i>Yarra</i> (str.), <i>Tamba Maru</i> (str.).
FOR BREMEN.— <i>Bayern</i> (str.), <i>C. Ferd Laeisz</i> (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.— <i>Ambria</i> (str.), <i>Bamberg</i> (str.), <i>C. Ferd Laeisz</i> (str.), <i>Freiburg</i> (str.), <i>Konigsberg</i> (str.), <i>Silvia</i> (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.— <i>China</i> (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.— <i>Kaga Maru</i> (str.), <i>Riojun Maru</i> (str.), <i>Hyades</i> (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.— <i>Empress of India</i> (str.), <i>Tartar</i> (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.— <i>Glenroy</i> (str.), <i>Indramayo</i> (str.), <i>Asama</i> (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).— <i>Indrapura</i> (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.— <i>Kasuga Maru</i> (str.), <i>Australian</i> (str.), <i>Tsinan</i> (str.).
FOR CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.— <i>Namsang</i> (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.— <i>Milke Maru</i> (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, SINGAPORE AND PENANG.— <i>Isola di Capri</i> (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, VIA BOMBAY.— <i>Idzumi Maru</i> (str.).

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th Aug.—The general stagnation in our market continues, and the business transacted during the interval has again been very limited in extent.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai are reported sold at \$610, but more shares can be obtained. London rate is unchanged at £63.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request at \$390, and Cantons at \$160. China Traders are quoted at \$57 sellers, and North Chinas at Tls. 187½ sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Lines maintain their position, with buyers at \$81. Hongkongs can still be procured at \$33½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been disposed of at \$37½ ex the interim dividend of \$1½ per share paid on the 6th inst., and further shares are on offer. Indo-Chinas are weak at \$88 with sellers. China Manilas have declined to \$2½ sellers. Shell Transports have been done at the reduced rate of £1.12s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been in strong demand at low rates during the week, and a very fair parcel has changed hands as we close at \$105, with further enquiry. Luzons are unchanged at \$20 sellers.

MINING.—Jebehus have been done at 70 cents. In other stocks we have heard of no business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, under the influence of a disappointing dividend for the past half year, have suffered a severe decline and are now quoted at \$198 with small buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have slightly improved and have been sold at \$89. New Amoy Docks are still in request at \$36.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$169 and \$168, and are still on offer at the lower figure. There are no changes to report in other stocks under this head.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos can be placed at Tls. 41, and Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 42. Hongkong Cottons are quiet with sellers at \$17½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold and continue in request at \$20½. China Borneos have declined to \$20 with sellers. Gas shares continue in request at \$140, and Ices at \$240. Tramways have sold and are still enquired for at \$340. Steam Water-Boats have sold at the improved rate of \$10, and China Providents at the same figure.

MEMOS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 18th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 18th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$610, sales & £63, L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Found. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$22, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$20, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$10, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$103, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$45.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 41, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 42, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17½, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20½, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6½, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$10, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$135, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$89.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$198, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$160, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$81, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$57, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 187½, sellers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$390, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$130, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$168, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$51½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$20, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Pes. 250	\$550.
Jebehu	\$5	0 cents, sales
Punjom	\$10	\$4, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1½, sellers
Raub	18	\$8.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$36, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$45, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$55.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$32½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	nominal
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$43½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$37½, sales & sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	\$88, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	£1. 12s. 6d., sales
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	(\$20½, sellers
United Abestos	\$4	(\$11, sellers
Do.	\$10	nominal.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$8.20, sales
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$155, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$21, sellers
		\$6½, buyers
		\$14½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

Shanghai 6th August (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). During the week under review two Bank holidays intervened and business was restricted. FIRE INSURANCE.—There is no local business to report. SHIPPING.—Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. shares changed hands for cash at 66 67, declined to 64 and have recovered to 65. For October shares were placed at 68, 71 and 67. SUGARS.—China Sugar Refining shares declined to \$99, but have recovered to \$101. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares were sold at Tls. 900.800 cash and 9.00 for August. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Shares in S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co. were sold at Tls. 197½, 200 and 205 cash, closing at 200. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. shares were placed at Tls. 292½. LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 115 cum new issue, and are offering. Weihaiwei shares are offering. INDUSTRIAL.—Shanghai Pulp and Paper shares were sold at Tls. 110½. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—An interim dividend of 6 per cent. was paid to-day by each of the local Cargo Boat Companies. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares were the medium of business at Tls. 250,255, 260 for August and 262½ for September. Central Stores Founders' shares were placed at \$50. Hall and Holtz shares were sold at \$40, cum new issue, and Weeks and Co. shares at \$26½.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

August—

1. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
2. Haldis, Norwegian str., from Hamburg.
2. Kachidate Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
2. Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
2. Prosper, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
2. Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
2. Pronto, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
3. Kong Beng, German str., from Bangkok.
3. Pax, Belgian str., from Saigon.
3. Y. de la Amara, Amr. str., from Manila.
3. Verona, German str., from Amoy.
4. Benclench, British str., from Amoy.
4. Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
4. Hupeh, British str., from Chinkiang.
4. Islo di Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
4. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
4. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anting.
4. Pakling, British str., from Glasgow.
4. Telemachus, British str., from Singapore.
4. Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
5. Benlawers, British str., from Shanghai.
5. China, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
5. Chitose, Japanese cruiser, from Amoy.
5. Irene, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
5. Kiautschou, German str., from Shanghai.
5. Konig Albert, German str., from Hamburg.
5. Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
5. Madeleine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Moji.
5. Mazagon, British str., from Bombay.
5. Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
5. Ness, British str., from Moji.
5. Perla, British str., from Manila.
5. Rasetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
5. Salahadji, Dutch str., from Pulo Samboe.
5. Taiwan, British str., from Swatow.
6. Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
6. Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
6. Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
6. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
6. Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
6. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
6. Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
6. Lothian, British str., from Glasgow.
6. Trym, Norwegian str., from Canton.
6. Wurzburg, German str., from Moji.
7. Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
7. Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
7. Clive, British transport, from Shanghai.
7. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
7. Esmeralda, British str., from Saigon.
7. Haiphong, French str., from Haiphong.
7. Hopsang, British str., from Swatow.
7. Independent, German str., from Amoy.
7. Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
7. Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
7. Prosper, Norwegian str., from Canton.
7. Rubi, British str., from Manila.

7, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
 7, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.
 7, Yuenhsang, British str., from Manila.
 8, Atholl, British str., from Amoy.
 8, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 8, Chwushan, British str., from Amoy.
 8, Elae, German str., from Canton.
 8, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
 8, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 8, Pentakota, British trspt., from Calcutta.
 8, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 8, Ulysses, British str., from Foochow.
 8, Willscott, Amr. barque, from New York.
 9, Ceylon, British str., from London.
 9, Chelydra, British str., from Hongay.
 9, Haileong, British str., from Swatow.
 9, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
 9, Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 9, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 10, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
 10, Yarra, French str., from Shanghai.

August—
 DEPARTURES.
 2, Argo, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 2, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Denbighshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Duke of Fife, British str., for Tacoma.
 2, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
 2, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 2, Lena, Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.
 2, Saga, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 2, Trym, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 2, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 3, Chunsang, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Mexican Prince, British str., for Amoy.
 3, Valetta, British str., for Europe.
 4, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., for Foochow.
 4, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 4, Indravelli, British str., for Portland.
 4, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
 4, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 4, Taishan, British str., for Swatow.
 4, Ailsa Craig, British str., for Moji.
 5, Antenor, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Pencleuch, British str., for New York.
 5, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 5, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 5, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 5, Jelunga, British transport, for Calcutta.
 5, Kwangse, British str., for Amoy.
 5, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 5, Pitsanulok, German str., for Hoihow.
 5, Thales, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
 5, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 6, Amphitrite, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 6, Benlawers, British str., for New York.
 6, Bombay, British str., for Bombay.
 6, C. Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 6, Dardadus, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Elita Nosack, German str., for Swatow.
 6, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 6, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F. cisco.
 6, Konig Albert, German str., for Shanghai.
 6, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 6, Pakling, British str., for Nagasaki.
 6, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 6, Verona, German str., for Singapore.
 6, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
 7, Gloucester City, British str., for Hongay.
 7, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Hongsang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 7, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 7, Kiautschou, German str., for Europe.
 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 7, Lothian, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 7, Mazagon, British str., for Kobe.
 7, Trym, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 7, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 8, China, German str., for Singapore.
 8, Clive, British transport, for Calcutta.
 8, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 8, Haidis, Norwegian str., for Tsingtau.
 8, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 8, P. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
 8, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 8, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 9, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for Colombo.
 9, Bygdo, German str., for Canton.
 9, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 9, Kutsang, British str., for Samarang.
 9, Ness, British str., for Moji.
 9, Phra C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.

9, Salahadji, Dutch str., for Swatow.
 9, Ulysses, British str., for Singapore.
 10, Chwushan, British str., for Singapore.
 10, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 10, D. ramors, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 10, Esmeralda, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
 10, Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.
 10, Wurzburg, German str., for Calcutta.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Bombay*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Dr. and Mrs. McClean Gibson, Messrs. J. D'Aquino and A. Bastien; from Kobe, Mr. A. Kuhn.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from London, Sergt. and Mrs. W. Higby and two children, from Gibraltar, Lieut. and Mrs. Jose Francisco and infant, Lieuts. A. A. Fonjica, J. M. Bruz and M. Luiz; from Marseilles, Mr. Nicholle; from Brindisi, Messrs. J. A. Roosevelt and H. Yeoman; from Singapore, Mrs. Kent, Messrs. R. Goldman, A. G. N. Reany and Hume; for Shanghai, from Singapore, Capt. W. Kerr.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mrs. S. Schmickler, Mrs. Lande, Mrs. C. Sperry, Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer, Mrs. S. Wesse, Mrs. J. Shuman, Major Stevenson, Lieut. Chapman, Dr. Keen, Messrs. A. Levett, T. Brower, M. Spiller, W. H. M. Sinclair, J. Latterlee, J. Lundberg, H. F. Cameron, D. Fullaway, J. Ross, J. McCallum, W. G. Dickenson, Hemming, McFarland, J. Woods, W. D. Raymond, P. Kussen, Masako and C. Roberts.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Hamburg, for Hongkong, Rev. Francisco X. Soares, Capt. Farrell, Messrs. G. Niemann, R. Pilling, Georg Boelsen, A. Meiffre, Otto Knebel and Sydney Hill.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. F. J. Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Dellan, Mr. and Mrs. D. Wing and infant, Miss Wing, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Atkinson, Mrs. P. G. Anderson, Major Bewley, Lieut. C. D. Hitchins, Capt. Stevenson, Messrs. F. S. Boyes, W. Schellhass, H. S. Brown, C. C. Seeley, J. H. Roy, P. H. Ashmead, S. Yen, H. O. Murray Miller and Louis Machado and three children.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Ingram, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Reyes, Master Ryan, Mrs. Geo. Graham, Mrs. M. Stanford, Mrs. Buck and two children, Misses Tickenor, M. A. Kolp and Esperrey, General W. H. Bisbee, Lieut. Kent, Capt. Gissing, Messrs. R. Wood, Niel Macleod, A. F. Girs, C. W. Hall, A. S. Hay, R. Hiddigo, V. Reyes, W. Windrath, J. J. Connell, W. L. Hay, Frank, Halt, H. E. Richard on Jobling, Stocking, W. Wheeler, Juan Guyman, L. de Sura, W. E. Morren, H. Gunaway, Colmell, Rogge and J. C. Moffett.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. J. W. Bolles.

Per *Hailoong*, from Tamsui, &c., Captain Farrow.

Per *Guthrie*, from Sydney, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Porter, Mrs. S. G. Knaggs, Mrs. G. M. Kingsbury, Misses Daisy and May Kingsbury, Master James Kingsbury, Mr. and Mrs. H. Staerker, Mr. and Mrs. Yeen, Misses and Master Yeen, Dr. John Wilson, Misses M. Reid, R. Turner, E. C. Turner, Wilson and M. Wi son, Messrs. F. W. Turner, I. Fogg, J. Hefferman, W. Sturzell, Hawkins, David Mann, W. S. Wright and E. A. McGubbin.

Per *Kiautschou*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. Chas. Morton; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Fusa Takemoto; from Shanghai, Mrs. Darmenture, Mrs. Demoni, Miss E. L. Clemoes, Messrs. S. S. Samekh, Edw. B. Raymond, A. M. Yaffer, F. W. Newson, Geo. McBain, E. L. Gilson and A. Mason; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mrs. Smith; from Kobe, Mr. Wotton; from Yokohama, Mr. C. A. Da Silva; for Naples, from Nagasaki, Mr. Th. M. Jackson; for Genoa, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Th. Meyer and children, Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker, Mrs. L. Francesore, Miss Reinhardt, Messrs. Kolshorn, Locksmith, Gruber and P. Bernaty; for Southampton, from Yokohama, Miss Kidson; for Bremerhaven, from Shanghai, Major Riese, Messrs. v. Schanberg, Frh. v. Humboldt v. Tungelu, v. Buch, v. Kleist, v. Rudiger, Graf Stosch, v. Ondaarza, Oelborn, Zarnke, Schneider, Pinnow, Wachs, Hoff, Milewsky, Grahlmann,

Fahr, Dorow, Eschrich, Gbbhardt, Wachlin, Seitz, Berger, Drs. Tornow and G. linsky; from Yokohama, Mrs. Wehrman and two daughters and Mr. Knobelsdorff.

Per *Haiphong*, from Haiphong, Mrs. Eldin.
 Per *Bingo Maru*, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Terry, Miss M. Cannall, Messrs. S. Murray, H. I. Hennag, J. Olmstead, T. Gil and F. S. Thomson.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mrs. Fanny Start, Capt. F. S. Hutton, Misses Mary Reus, B. Tusti and G. Golster, Messrs. J. E. Joseph, E. A. Whitney, J. Thowton, W. R. Brown, F. Wilson, J. Rein and J. Murphy.

Per *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, Mr. J. Ross.
 Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Col. and Mrs. Woodruff, U.S.A., Misses Woodruff, Rosenfelt and J. Nazarro, Dr. Batten, Messrs. P. Brady, J. V. Chelders, F. M. Alexander, G. Seyers, J. K. Krogh, L. H. Roland, C. H. Sader, W. H. Weston and W. B. Davy.

DEPARTED.

Per *Valetta*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. P. N. Graydon; for Aden, Lieut. A. P. de Mello; for London, Mrs. Frost and child, Mrs. Tranter, Sergt. and Mrs. Meader, Dr. Paton, Sergt.-Major Stenlake, Messrs. V. R. Williams, A. Miller and Jackson.

The *Yawata Maru*, from Hongkong, for Thursday Island, Mr. K. Oda; for Townsville, Mrs., Miss and Master Lester; for Brisbane, Mr. A. Jones; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Ramsey, Mrs. Richardson and two children, Miss Dangar, Messrs. J. A. Edmundson, H. H. Robinson, T. W. Brundrit, J. Gorevan, H. Drysdale, H. C. Dangar, J. W. McKirdy and P. G. Ashton.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, for Nagasaki, Mrs. N. Hagino, Messrs. W. L. Hay and G. Fujiyama; for San Francisco, &c., Miss I. Remmla, Messrs. Jas. A. Roosevelt, H. Yeamans, O. Buermann and J. C. Moffett.

Per *Empress of China*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. Hector Sampson and F. H. Eyanocavara; for Nagasaki, Mr. Joe Satterlee; for Kobe, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Kerr, Messrs. C. D. Wilkinson, H. W. Looker and E. Koyse; for Yokohama, Mrs. D. W. Craddock and two children, Major Wm. Stephenson, General W. H. Bisbee, U.S.A., Lieuts. W. T. Caulfield and Guy Kent, U.S.A., Dr. F. J. A. Beringer and Mr. J. W. Gobling; for San Francisco, Mrs. Geo. Graham, Messrs. A. J. Gies and C. W. Hall; for Chicago, Mrs. H. A. Stuart and child; for New York, Miss S. A. Tickenor; for Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schaeffer, Mr. and Mrs. Rays and son and Mr. R. Hidalgo; for Tacoma, Mr. F. T. Kelly; for London, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ford, Capt. Alan Melville, Lieuts. R. G. Corbett, R.N. and W. J. Duffell, R.N., Master Gunner W. O. McNaughton, Messrs. Neil Macleod, Robert Wood, W. H. M. Sinclair and Juan Guzucon; from Yokohama, for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Smith and three children and Miss Turner.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. G. Ozorio, Miss J. Gonsalvez, Mr. S. S. Benjamin; for Nagasaki, Mr. C. Rogge; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schoenemann, Miss A. Schoenemann, Mrs. Benjamin, Miss Gray and two children.

Per *Kiautschou*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. E. Aldrews, F. G. Penny, A. S. Abdoolrahim and P. P. Mar in; for Penang, Mr. McBain; for Genoa, Mrs. M. Stanford, Misses M. A. Kolp and L. Poete and Mr. C. Mittell; for London, Mr. W. C. Holt and Insp. D. McLennan; for Bremen, Mr. Victor C. Belmsmeyer.

Per *Bingo Maru*, for London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. T. Hughes and infant, Mrs. F. M. Carrall and child, Misses F. G. K. and M. Carrall, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Terry, Mrs. C. H. Forbes, Mrs. G. A. Kynock and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Levett, Mr. and Mrs. E. Brauner, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Moosdeen and child, Miss Moosdeen, Lieut. and Mrs. M. E. Chapman, Rev. M. Fernandez, Messrs. Thos. S. Thompson, Classerian, K. Shichiri, F. Boyd, W. Kock, Allen, A. Williams, A. Polites, C. Boulthay, A. Knox, H. Gannaway, W. E. Morris and A. Mason.

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